

# EPA asked to delay Taracorp cleanup

By Mike Myers  
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — Local officials have asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for more time to study the economic and health impact of the Taracorp lead contamination.

Three mayors — Von Dee Cruse of Granite City, John Bellecoff of Madison and Tyrone Echols of Venice — met with state Rep. Sam Wolf on Friday to discuss preparation of a joint study and response to the EPA's cleanup proposal for lead contaminated areas in the three cities.

Cruse said the EPA has agreed "99.9 percent" to a two- to three-week extension of the public comment period in order to allow the communities to assess the local situation.

An EPA spokesman said Friday she couldn't confirm the extension, but that "extensions are not unheard of."

The cities, Cruse said, must be allowed time to look at the contamination problem and its local impact. He said the planned cleanup would be very disruptive to both residents and business.

"We think (the cleanup) is really a very, very serious problem," Cruse said. "The EPA has already created a serious problem by coming in and focusing media and public attention on the contamination."

The EPA's proposal for cleaning up the contamination calls for digging up battery casings used as paving material in Venice alleys and as fill in Eagle Park, and digging up casings from an area close to the Taracorp pile in the 1500 block of State Street.

It also calls for removal of the top six inches of soil from residential yards in large areas of Granite City and Madison where lead levels have been measured at 500 parts per million or above.

The dug-up areas would be re-covered with sod or asphalt. The contaminated soil and casing material would be added to the present Taracorp pile and the pile would be permanently sealed.

Wolf said he has been involved with the Taracorp problem since 1982 and that a public hearing on the problem was held in September 1983.

"We decided the best solution to the problem

... They're telling us at the EPA that there is enough lead in the dirt to make it dangerous if you eat it. ... Even if they hadn't found lead in the dirt, I wouldn't eat it."

— Mayor Von Dee Cruse

## City council statement planned

GRANITE CITY — The City Council is expected to make a formal response to the proposed Taracorp lead cleanup Tuesday night.

Fourth Ward Alderman Dan Brown, chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee, said Friday he is preparing a proposal for the aldermen to consider and will have a committee meeting on the proposed response Monday. He said the response will be presented to the aldermen at a meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, just prior to the City Council Meeting.

Brown said one of the issues is two studies that show the level of lead found in soil in Granite City presents no significant health hazard and

found no elevated levels of lead in residents' blood.

"But despite these findings, the EPA has taken it upon themselves to tear up a major part of the city," Brown said. "The health of our citizens is paramount. But there should be no cleanup until blood tests are done to see if there really are problems. If there are, then it should be cleaned up and money set aside to take care of the people who have health problems."

Brown said he is "very disappointed" with the EPA for not having made the city a part of its planning process. He said that since the public

(544 LEAD, P. 10 6A)

was to try to get it on the U.S. EPA Superfund list, which we did," Wolf said. "We have to keep working with the EPA. They will provide 75 percent of the funding to get it cleaned up."

"However, there is a question of public health, whether 500 ppm (of lead) constitutes a health hazard. We're asking for a delay to determine if that is an accurate statistic to use."

Cruse said the EPA hasn't shown him any studies to indicate a level of danger meriting tearing up yards.

He said further public health studies are needed. He indicated the Illinois Department of Public Health would be asked to do some further studies during the requested delay.

"I don't know of any dirt that's good enough to eat," Cruse said. "But that's what they're telling

us at the EPA, that there is enough lead in the dirt to make it dangerous if you eat it."

"I'm sure if you looked for them, there are other chemicals in dirt that make it no good to eat. But they're looking for lead. Even if they hadn't found lead in the dirt, I wouldn't eat it."

Cruse said he and the other mayors are saying they won't work with the EPA. "We're not going to run them out of town or anything, but we're putting up a fence and tell them don't come in."

Cleanup of the contamination is essential, Cruse said, and the EPA is the only one with the expertise, money and other resources to do it.

"We just want to make damn sure this is really necessary first," Cruse said. "They haven't shown me statistics that say that."

# Lead

(Continued from Page 1A)

hearing, residents have come forward to say battery casing material was not only used to pave alleys in Venice, but for driveways and streets throughout the area.

"People need to be given time to come forward with this information and then tests need to be done," Brown said.

Brown said a meeting this week that included Mel Wilmsmeyer, chairman and president of Magna Bank, and Harold Cavins, president of the Granite City Board of Realtors, indicated real estate values have already been effected.

"Under Illinois law, if there is a known health hazard the prospective buyer must be provided with a disclosure of the health hazard," Brown said. "If an area is red-lined in as part of the contaminated area by the EPA, it will scare buyers away."

All of the downtown area is

within the boundaries the EPA has marked as contaminated, but is not scheduled for cleanup because the EPA contends any lead on paved areas would have just washed down the storm sewers.

"But that smokestack has been belching out lead since 1903, before a lot of that area was paved or built over," Brown said. "What happens in the future if there is development and they start digging up contaminated soil?"

"The EPA plan doesn't address that. The time to do something about it is now, when the EPA is here with the money and inclination, and not in another 10 years."

Brown said the bottom line is a need for more blood tests.

"If (blood tests) find no problem, then the EPA should just clean up the parts of the city that have lead levels above 1,500 ppm or whatever level is a real danger."

(13) Phone conversation between Bob Sharpe, IEPA and  
Mike O'Toole 6/13/84

(14) U.S.G.S. Montic Mound Quadrangle, IL 7.5 Minute Series 1954.

(15) 1980 Census of Population and Housing Illinois Part 15 (PHC 80-3-1)  
U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Census

# EPA's Taracorp plan draws objections

## Downtown restoration society plans petition drive opposing soil removal

GRANITE CITY — An area-wide petition drive to have the U.S. Environmental Agency reconsider its Superfund cleanup plans for the Taracorp lead contamination was begun this week by the Downtown Neighborhood Restoration Society.

The petitions will be filed as part of the EPA's public comment period, according to DNRS member John Hopkins.

In addition, he said, the petitions will be sent to U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello and Senators Paul Simon and Alan Dixon.

The legislators will be asked to "exercise all possible lobbying efforts on the federal level" in opposition to the EPA's proposal.

The DNRS, which said it is the only organized neighborhood group in the proposed cleanup area, voted unanimously to begin the drive at its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 9.

Prior to the vote, the members participated in a 90-minute question-and-answer session with Brad Bradley of the EPA and Dan Webb of the Illinois Public Health Administration.

At issue is the removal of the top six to eight inches of soil from residential yards as planned under the EPA-preferred Alternative H, which the DNRS considers excessive.

The EPA established seven alternatives follow-

ing its feasibility study with Alternative H being its preferred choice.

The DNRS is urging adoption of Alternative D, a less extensive and less expensive cleanup plan.

Both alternatives call for digging up the battery casings from the Venice alleys and the areas closest to the Taracorp pile at 16th and State streets.

The dug-up areas would be recovered with sod or asphalt. The contaminated material would be added to the present Taracorp pile and the pile would be permanently sealed.

Unlike Alternative H, Alternative D does not call for wide-spread soil removal in residential areas.

The estimated cost of Alternative D is \$6,835,450 compared to \$25,000,000 for Alternative H. Alternative H is estimated to take six months longer than Alternative D.

The DNRS objections to Alternative H are:

- An absence of scientific documentation of public health risks associated with soil contamination of 500 parts per million (the EPA's threshold) sufficient enough to offset the devastating effects on residential safety and property values brought about by the residential cleanup.

- A lack of updated blood tests of children in the so-called affected area, coupled with the failure to

(See PETITION, Page 10A)

demonstrate specific areas of health problems clearly associated with the ingestion of lead through the soil.

The group also requests additional valid scientific study and additional blood tests as called for by Tom Long, chief toxicologist of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The DNRS petition states:

"Be it hereby resolved that the undersigned are opposed to the United States EPA Alternative H for the cleanup of the Taracorp/NL Superfund Site. The undersigned agree that Alternative D is the preferred solution. However, the undersigned support the conduct of additional valid scientific studies to determine the health risks of soils between 500 ppm and 1,000 ppm. Should such valid scientific study (in the future) reveal a significant risk to health in the Granite City area, the cleanup proposal should be based on (that new) study."

# Day Home Journal

GRANITE CITY PRESS-RECORD

Member of the Suburban Newspapers of Greater St. Louis

Sunday

## Neighbors grill EPA over lead

Andy Sloring

Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — If the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has its way, Granite City will have a landmark to rival Monk's Mound.

The plan favored by the EPA would double the size of the 240,000 ton pile of lead slag and battery casings in the 1500 block of State Street, according to Brad Bradley, the federal EPA's remedial project manager for the site.

"You'd be able to ski off of it," said Tom Long, senior toxicologist for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Long was one of about 160 people present Thursday night at a public hearing held by the EPA to explain its preferred method of dealing with lead contamination in the city from 80 years of lead smelting at NL Industries, now Taracorp.

The plan — estimated to cost \$25 million and take 18 to 30 months to complete — would involve scraping top soil from 55 city blocks in a one-mile radius around the site and consolidating it with the big Taracorp pile. Airborne lead was deposited in the yards over decades of smelting operations at the plant.

A smaller pile at the St. Louis Lead Recyclers (See TARACORP, Page 8A)



Brad Bradley of the U.S. EPA talks at the public hearing Thurs

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# day Home Journal

GRANITE CITY PRESS-RECOR

Member of the Suburban Newspapers of Greater St. Louis

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## Taracorp cleanup a step closer Jennison-Wright may be started

By Mike Myers  
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — The news is hopeful and not so hopeful, respectively, for the city's two contaminated areas.

A feasibility study has been completed on lead-contaminated Taracorp sites in Granite City, Venice and Eagle Park which are listed as Superfund sites by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The public comment period on the eight proposed cleanup alternatives is set to begin Wednesday, according to Mary Ann LaFair of the EPA.

Meanwhile, the Cleveland-based Jennison-Wright company, whose wood-treating plant in Granite City is listed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as dioxin-contaminated, has filed for bankruptcy in federal court. According to Stephen Davis, IEPA project manager, paying for cleanup of the site is in question.

LaFair said Friday the Taracorp feasibility study is ready for release and should be available at the Granite City Library, 2001 Delmar Ave., by Wednesday.

"What happens is we release a proposed plan

for the entire area. It contains a number of alternatives, in this case eight, and the EPA looks at it and we suggest changes or additions. The people can suggest changes or additions during the comment period."

The lead contamination resulted from battery recycling, according to the EPA.

The sites listed as contaminated are the 55-block area immediately surrounding the former National Lead waste pile at 15th and State streets in Granite City, a number of alleys in Venice where the battery casings were used as paving material, and several lots in Eagle Park where the material was used as fill.

LaFair said a public meeting on the Taracorp proposals is scheduled at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Granite City Township Building, 2060 Delmar Ave. She said smaller meetings with specific groups are planned in late January but are not yet finalized.

The public comment period will end Feb. 24.

She said the EPA plans to run an advertisement announcing the comment period in the Wednesday *Granite City Journal* and the EPA will be making a press release at the same time.

"We are not planning a cleanup although the feasibility study is in draft, but the changes are not final," LaFair said.

"We don't hold onto them just as soon as the study is completed."

Jennison-Wright will close its current stock is depleted the banks in priority for Jennison-Wright will not doors and walk away," LaFair said.

"The banks will get the cleanup — it may be \$1 million," Davis said.

Davis said Jennison-Wright is in a liquidation process throughout the city. It has continued to be a problem, he said, on anything.

At least 90 percent of the contamination was caused by former

## (Continued from Page 1A)

Chris Risinger, who lives with her husband and two young children across State Street from the big pile, asked, "How big of a pile am I going to be looking at when the cleanup is done, and who is going to buy my house?"

Mayor Von Dee Cruse, who left before the meeting was finished at 10:30 p.m. — as did about 100 others — said Friday that he favored the NL Industries plan. He called the EPA plan "preposterous" and "com-

Written comments may be sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Public Affairs, Region 5, 230 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

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# •Cleanup

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the plant.

Jennison-Wright has said it bought the plant without knowledge of the contamination and, once it was discovered, immediately informed the state authorities.

"They bought into the problem and have been trying to deal with it," Davis said. "They have never been a bad actor per se."

"I really believe if (Jennison-Wright) had the money, it would be out there cleaning up right now. But it's a federal judge who controls the money now."

But, he said, the bankruptcy will leave the IEPA with no one to go after.

"We'll do what we can do with the money we have," Davis said.

"If we have to, we will try to secure monies from other resources, investigate other avenues to recoup the money."

"We may go to the Legislature, the federal EPA for money. Right now I just don't know."

According to the IEPA, the Jennison-Wright plant is contaminated with some forms of dioxin as a result of using PCP-type wood treatment materials. Earlier this year, the IEPA said studies showed the possibility that some of the contamination may have spread into the surrounding neighborhood.

The off-site area contamination presents no immediate health hazard, according to the IEPA.

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Fair said a public meeting on the Taracorp sales is scheduled at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 in the City Township Building, 2060 Delmar Ave. and smaller meetings with specific groups are scheduled in late January but are not yet finalized.

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THE CITY PRESS-RECORD

# Journal

Sunday, January 7, 1990

## Cleanup closer; cleanup may be stalled

"We are not planning a release until (Wednesday), although the feasibility study is basically done," LaFair said. "I see a couple of pages are marked draft, but the changes are just editorial changes."

"We don't hold onto these things. We release them just as soon as they are finished."

Jennison-Wright will close down as soon as the current stock is depleted, and the IEPA is behind the banks in priority for payment, but Davis said Jennison-Wright will not be able to "just lock the doors and walk away," leaving the problem to the city and state.

"The banks will get their cut right off the top," Davis said. "The IEPA gets what's left to pay for cleanup — it may be \$1 million, it may be \$1 — we don't know."

Davis said Jennison-Wright has been very cooperative throughout the investigation and cleanup. It has continued to be cooperative through the bankruptcy, he said, and has not tried to hide anything.

At least 90 percent of the problems, Davis said, were caused by former owners and operators of

(See CLEANUP, Page 6A)

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GRANT



# Letters

*This is  
Federal Judge  
Bill Beatty's  
secretary*

## Taracorp lead pile must be removed

To the editor:

I attended the public meeting on Thursday night and left that meeting very frightened and angry.

The Environmental Protection Agency is attempting to lead us down the so-called "garden path" with their Alternative H Plan for cleanup.

I live one block from the Taracorp pile. To be told that they are going to come in, dig up my entire yard, haul it one block away, put a "cap" on it and everything will then be "rosy" — this has to be the most ludicrous statement I have ever heard.

This plan calls for a total cost of \$25,000,000.

Alternative Plan G calls for a total cost of \$67,000,000 and it, too, calls for digging up the contaminated soil, but instead hauling it to the existing pile, they would haul it and the existing pile to an EPA-approved hazardous-waste landfill.

We were told at the meeting that hauling the contaminated soil would be too dangerous because the wind could blow it into the atmosphere. Please do not insult our intelligence. We all know that there are special vehicles which have been man-

ufactured for just that purpose.

A proposal that would be most beneficial to the entire Granite City community came not from the EPA but from citizens in private discussions during a break in the meeting.

This proposal was that the EPA or some other public agency buy all of the property in the area bounded by 14th Street, Madison Avenue, 18th Street and Benton Street. Most of the buildings would be leveled and removed along with the topsoil and the present lead pile, and disposed of in an EPA-approved hazardous waste landfill.

This would leave a substantial block of prime property that could be sold and developed for light industrial or other use, thereby recovering most of the cost of the cleanup.

The most important thing to the citizens of Granite City is the removal of the existing lead pile. Even the EPA gives no guarantee that capping the lead pile will end the contamination.

Please write to the President, your senators, representatives and the candidates for governor of our state and let them know that the people in Granite City need help.

MARY MARGARET NONN  
Granite City

## EPA plays neces

To the editor:

If your Dad jumped off a bridge and survived, would you? I think not.

This is the type of reasoning used by some concerning exposures to dangerous chemicals like benzene. I've also known men who have "wallowed in the stuff" and they "are" dead.

Let the EPA do its job. They must control businesses and plants in regard to spills and emissions.

Some businesses will have to close because of huge cleanup expenses. This is true. However, new jobs will be created adding pollution devices and cleaning up polluted areas.

Where do we do businesses continue and chemicals in and deforming out

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# EPA plays necessary protection role

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new jobs will be created adding pollu-  
devices and cleaning up polluted areas.

Where do we draw the line? Do we just let  
businesses continue to spew out deadly gases  
and chemicals into the environment, killing  
and deforming our children?

In my opinion, the EPA should have more  
power, including establishment of a Cabinet-  
level department of the environment. The  
U.S. is one of only a few countries among  
the world's industrial nations that doesn't  
have a cabinet-level department. This would  
make a must needed contribution to the bat-  
tle for a cleaner environment.

Making the EPA a cabinet position would  
send a definite signal that environmental  
concerns are a high priority on the national

agenda.

This high-level authority is needed to gather  
er data concerning proposals for tougher  
regulations and cost-effective methods to do  
cleanups.

Studies are also needed in relation to pol-  
lution to find out the effects of different  
types of chemicals on the environment and  
new methods to decrease this pollution.

I am sorry that some people lose jobs  
because of businesses' negligence, but this is  
the price we must pay to keep the world safe  
for our children and grandchildren to come.

MICHAEL RAY DILLIER  
Granite City

# GRANITE CITY PRESS-RECORD Journal

Sunday, March 4, 1990

## •Lead

(Continued from Page 1A)

areas surrounding the Taracorp waste pile at 15th and State streets in Granite City. Local officials have expressed concern that the activity might disrupt business and inconvenience nearby residents.

"They told the EPA they don't want to get halfway through digging up people's yards and find out about new statistics that show the whole project wasn't necessary," said Costello spokesman Brian Lott about Thursday's meeting.

Brad Bradley, the EPA's Taracorp project manager, said the agency would welcome blood tests but the results would have no bearing on its extensive cleanup plans.

"Blood tests would give residents an indication of short-term impact of the lead and could help alleviate fears," Bradley said. "But they only provide a snapshot and are not a good indication of long-term affects."

High exposure to lead can damage the nervous and digestive system. It is most hazardous to children, often impairing mental development and stunting growth, according to the EPA.

The EPA is scheduled to make

a final decision on a cleanup plan by March 30 and is accepting public comment until March 12.

NL (National Lead) Industries Inc., which sold its lead smelting company to Taracorp in 1979, has submitted its own cleanup proposal, which would cost about \$6.8 million.

That plan would clean up all areas with lead levels of more than 1,000 parts per million, affecting about 1,000 residents. The EPA's plan would affect 3,000 to 4,000 households, and clean up all areas with lead levels higher than 500 parts per million.

Costello said he would continue to work with Frank Covington, the EPA official who met with the mayors Thursday, and try to reach a compromise.

"I was pleased with the cooperative attitude exhibited by Mr. Covington, and his willingness to listen to the mayors and commit to close communication with them on this very important matter," Costello said.

"I will continue to work with local officials and residents of the area to make sure that their concerns are heard by the U.S. EPA."

## Verify lead level first, EPA told

By Jason Moody  
Staff writer

WASHINGTON — Mayors from Granite City and Madison asked a senior Environmental Protection Agency official Thursday to explore alternatives to a \$35 million plan for cleaning up lead deposits near Taracorp's lead products plant.

At a meeting on Capitol Hill attended by U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, Mayors Von Dee Cruse of Granite City and John Bellcoff of Madison asked the EPA to consider conducting blood tests on local residents for any evidence of high lead levels before going forward with the plan.

"We want to make sure that if they are going to spend \$35 million on a lead cleanup plan, that all appropriate agencies are convinced there is a serious health problem," said Cruse.

The EPA made no commitments at the meeting and has not yet decided on a plan of action, said John Grand of the EPA's regional office.

The EPA's \$35 million plan would include removal of about 6 inches of soil from residential

(See LEAD, Page 6A)

# Blood-lead test funds sought

By Diana Penner  
Special to the Journal

SPRINGFIELD — The state's chief toxicologist is searching for funds and approval to conduct blood-lead level tests of residents in the Granite City and Madison areas where a lead-soil cleanup is planned.

Tom Long, with the Illinois Department of Public Health, said he believes tests on residents are essential to develop a complete picture of the contamination's extent.

Long was an informal observer Feb. 7 when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held a hearing in Granite City to hear from residents and discuss a recommended plan to clean up in the vicinity of the Taracorp site.

The EPA wants to dig up six inches of soil within an area of 2,000-3,000 residential yards. That

soil would be combined with existing lead-contaminated waste, forming a pile that would then be covered with a sealer and topsoil.

The EPA says the effort would cost an estimated \$25 million and take 1½ to 2½ years to complete. Taracorp, which contends the EPA plan actually would cost \$30 million and require several years, favors a \$6.8 million cleanup that would excavate less soil and consume one to two years.

Though several tests have been done to measure lead contamination in the environment, no blood samples have been taken.

Long said he spoke Friday with a supervisor about getting funds for the tests and got a positive response. But the plan would have to be approved at higher levels.

He said he also will ask the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry about funding.

## Cruse has 'head in dirt'

To the editor:

Mayor Von Dee Cruse doesn't eat dirt, but he sure has his head under it.

He has continually ridiculed the Environmental Protection Agency in regard to alarming citizens with men in white suits checking areas for hazardous wastes. These EPA workers never know what to expect when they check a possible hazardous waste site. They must take these precautions.

Mayor Cruse would like the problems to just vanish miraculously without any cleanup

needed. He doesn't "eat dirt," but children and animals do.

Food and vegetables are also grown in this soil. It is only a matter of time until the lead in the soil shows up in the systems of the people living around this area.

It's great to want development in Granite City, and the threat of pollution or hazardous waste sites will certainly deter development.

But the health of the citizens should be the prime concern.

MICHAEL RAY DILLIER  
Granite City

## Mayor Cruse said mouthful

To the editor:

I would like to address a statement made by Mayor Von Dee Cruse in the *Sunday Home Journal* Feb. 18. He said, "Even if they hadn't found lead in the dirt, I wouldn't eat it."

Mr. Cruse, that is a very self-centered comment.

I had six children and now have nine grandchildren. I know of no little children that don't end up with dirt in their mouths.

Don't our children matter at all in this town? I think he owes someone an apology. Or maybe he shouldn't let his mouth out-speak his brain.

DONNA NARUP, Granite City

## Deal responsibly with lead

To the editor:

I am growing weary of a head-in-the-sand approach to the NL/Taracorp cleanup proposal. I am a resident of the proposed cleanup area.

The EPA did not make the site toxic. Whether EPA stays or goes, there are incredibly high levels of lead in that pile. The levels will not decrease simply because we somehow divert media attention from it.

Whether our mayor thinks the dirt in our area is as good as any dirt in the world won't carry much weight with future investors or potential homebuyers.

Are we so sure of the allure of our area that we can afford to ignore the perceived health threat of the pile? What will be the economic development theme for our area? "The pile is not as bad as you think" or "Pile, what pile?" Neither seems very marketable.

All this does not deal with the fact the pile may be a serious health risk. I urge politicians to forego their hometown boosterism and deal responsibly with this issue that could dramatically affect our community.

MICHAEL D. COLLIGAN  
Granite City

# nday Home Journal

GRANITE CITY PRESS-RECORD

Member of the Suburban Newspapers of Greater St. Louis

Sunday, March 11, 1990

## Lead called 'invisible epidemic'

By Dawn Grimes  
Staff writer

WASHINGTON — After listening to a panel of experts describe in detail the effects of prolonged lead exposure, a U.S. Senate panel concluded Thursday that it would encourage federal efforts to reduce the preventable danger.

Numerous specialists testified on the "invisible epidemic," shedding light on some of the long-term risks that might be faced by residents near the Taracorp lead pile in Granite City.

"Lead poisoning is one of the most serious pediatric health problems in the United States and it is completely preventable," said Dr. Herbert L. Needleman at the Senate subcommittee hearing.

Although there is some debate about the precise levels at which exposure to lead begins to harm children, both Chairman Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., agree that "it's time we did something."

Members of the Senate environment toxic substances subcommittee sought to justify a considerably larger federal role in preventing lead poisoning in areas like Granite City, Venice and Madison.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a \$25 million cleanup plan that would remove six inches of soil from residential areas surrounding the Taracorp waste pile.

Many local officials have complained the plan is too extensive and would disrupt business and inconvenience residents in the area.

Lieberman said one of the reasons lead poisoning doesn't capture the public attention is it has

'...Contaminated surface soil serves as a large reservoir of lead which continually blows around neighborhoods, is tracked indoors on shoes, carried in by house pets, and blows through open doors and windows.'

—Dr. Vernon Houk

been stereotyped as the problem of inner-city, minority children eating paint chips while being neglected by their mothers.

However, children can contract lead poisoning from sources other than paint — including dust, outside soil and drinking water carried in lead-soldered pipes.

A study conducted by the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati has shown a clear relationship between the average amount of lead in soil and the average amount of lead in blood of children living in the area.

However, Needleman cautioned "there is no level shown to be safe."

"This contaminated surface soil serves as a large reservoir of lead which continually blows around neighborhoods, is tracked indoors on shoes, carried in by house pets, and blows through open doors and windows," said Dr. Vernon Houk, assistant surgeon general for the Centers for Disease Control.

"Inside the home, lead poses an immediate threat to infants and toddlers as they crawl on the floor and put their hands and toys, contaminated with lead, into their mouths. Unfortunately, and

unrecognized by the parents, they are ingesting poison," Houk said.

Lead is a toxin that affects every system in the body. It is particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system, so that lead is particularly devastating to the fetus and young children.

Very severe lead exposure can cause coma, convulsions and even death, he said.

Lower levels of lead, which usually do not cause symptoms, can result in decreased intelligence, decreased ability to learn, developmental disabilities, behavioral disturbances, and disorders of blood production, Houk said.

"Many of the most serious effects of lead are irreversible; children who have moderate lead levels when they are very young have markedly increased school dropout rates, decreased ability to learn, difficulties with reading and neurobehavioral abnormalities," Houk added.

For the time being, until legislation can be passed and programs put into effect, Needleman said, "don't let your children eat dirt or paint and get their blood tested for lead poisoning."

Blood testing in the Granite City area has been



Robert LaRouche/Post-Dispatch

This alley, which runs behind the Venice public school buildings at 700 Broadway, was paved with old battery casings that contained lead. The casings came from the Taracorp Industries plant site in Granite City.

# Hearing On Cleanup Of Lead Set Tonight

By Safir Ahmed  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A public hearing tonight will be the only chance for residents of the Granite City, Venice and Madison areas to get their questions answered about the high levels of lead in their neighborhoods and about a plan to get the soil cleaned up.

The hearing, being conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, will begin at 7 p.m. at the Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Avenue in Granite City.

The hearing is on a \$25 million cleanup plan proposed by the state and federal agencies.

Under the proposal, the lead-contaminated soil in a wide residential area around the Taracorp Industries plant at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard would be dug up and put back where the lead came from: a 250,000-ton slag heap at the Taracorp site.

The contaminated areas include a large chunk of downtown Granite City, including City Hall, as well as several alleys in and near Madison and Venice that were paved more than 20 years ago with old battery casings

contaminated with lead. The alleys run through residential areas, and one of the alleys runs behind the Venice public school buildings at 700 Broadway.

Under the cleanup plan, the entire slag heap at Taracorp would be entombed under layers of plastic, rock, clay and topsoil. The slag heap dates back several decades when NL Industries owned the steel products plant before Taracorp bought it in 1979. NL owned the plant from 1928 until 1979.

The slag heap now contains about 300,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil, or 30 percent lead. While there are no laws limiting the concentrations of lead in the soil, state and federal experts believe that any amount greater than 500 parts of lead for each million parts of soil can be harmful, particularly to children.

Under the cleanup plan, every yard and all unpaved areas would be dug up, most to a depth of six inches, and the dirt hauled to the slag heap. The cleanup would reduce the lead contamination to a maximum of 500 parts of lead for every million parts of soil.

Officials acknowledge that the digging would considerably disrupt residents' lives.



Mary Ann Croce (Staff Photo by Mike Myers)

**SEVEN-YEAR-OLD** Richard Berney holds 75 grams of contaminated dirt, the amount the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency predicts a child eats each year.

# EPA's figures don't add up scientifically, expert says

By Mike Myers  
Staff writer

**GRANITE CITY** — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is being "almost intellectually dishonest" when it sets a soil lead level of 500 parts per million or greater as sole criteria for determining a health hazard, in the opinion of an industry expert.

And area mayors are "right on target" when demanding blood lead studies of local residents before cleaning up the Taracorp lead pile in Granite City, according to Daniel Vornberg, environmental manager for the Doe Run Company's Herculanum (Mo.) Lead Smelter.

Vornberg is the industry member of the international Society of Environmental Geochemistry and Health task force which has spent two years preparing guidelines on lead in soil.

He said the scientific community is on the threshold of being able to establish a cause/effect formula for soil lead levels to blood lead levels. The results of the task force's study are due to be

released in July.

"Until you can predict over and over again what (blood lead level) people will have based on the level of lead in the soil, you're not being honest when you set a number," Vornberg said.

But the EPA's Brad Bradley, project manager for the \$25 million Superfund Taracorp lead contamination cleanup plan, said the cutoff level of 500 ppm is not going to change, no matter what a study of blood lead might show.

"A blood study is under consideration," Bradley said. "But we're not going to use it to set the cleanup level. ... It's not useful to us."

Bradley said a blood lead study would "only be useful" in establishing how much contamination has already taken place and not in establishing future risk.

"There is nothing wrong with the EPA wanting to reduce risk," Vornberg said. "But reduce risk based on science. The (soil lead) numbers they're using don't necessarily fit what current studies

(See LEAD EXPERT, Page 10A)

## Child: 'Naw, I don't eat dirt'

**GRANITE CITY** — Seven-year-old Richard Berney looked at the handful of dirt a photographer had asked him to hold.

"Do you think you eat that much dirt a year?" he was asked.

"Naw, I don't eat dirt," he said.

"I do. I eat it all the time," bragged 10-year-old Joe Sitton.

Seeing that Richard didn't believe him, Joe added: "Mostly at night, when nobody else can see me."

Richard and Joe were playing in the alley between the 1700 blocks of Delmar Avenue and Cleveland Boulevard — near the middle of the Taracorp lead contamination cleanup area proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Along with their neighbors — 8-year-old Jesse Lee Thompson, 7-year-old Chris Caldwell and 9-year-old Barbara Sitton — they were turning backflips and somersaults on an old mattress that was waiting for the trashman. Parents watched from nearby.

The photographer interrupted their play to ask

Richard to pose with 75 grams of dirt — the amount the EPA model presumes a child eats in a year. That figure has been bandied about recently as part of continuing developments in the Taracorp case.

The children said they play together outside from the time they get home from school at Prather Elementary until dark.

"Even after dark, sometimes," Richard said.

"(Unless I'm grounded)," Barbara said.

All of them had heard about lead in the dirt in their yards and looked toward the prospect of heavy equipment digging up their yards as an adventure.

Deciding which yards will be removed, and how deeply, is one of the EPA's next steps, according to Brad Bradley, EPA cleanup project manager.

The decision will be based on soil samples, he said, and not all the yards in the area shown on past maps will be torn up.

It's also possible, he said, some yards not included on current maps will be removed.

Bradley said the soil testing, and its accompanying design period, should take about a year.

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## •Lead expert

(Continued from Page 1A)  
show."

Blood lead levels in children living around a Herculaneum, Mo., smelter were part of a nationwide study conducted in 1975 of heavy metal contamination in children living near primary non-ferrous smelters.

In 1984, Vornberg and Pat Phillips of the Missouri Department of Health repeated the study around the Herculaneum smelter based on the 1975 model.

At the same time, the study attempted to relate those blood lead levels to environmental sources such as soil lead using the EPA Biokinetic Uptake Model. Vornberg said that, using the model, the predicted blood level and actual blood level were close enough to merit further study.

For the 1984 study, soil lead and household dust lead levels were not measured, but, using the EPA model were predicted at 500 ppm in the areas closest to the smelter.

In 1985, actual soil and household dust samples were taken and, in the area closest to the smelter, were found to be 1,458 ppm and 2,080 ppm, respectively.

Using the actual data collected, a scientific paper presented at the "Lead in Soil: Issues and Guidelines" conference held in 1988 at Chapel Hill, N.C., by Vornberg, Phillips and James Lanzafame suggested modification of the amount of dirt eaten daily by children in the EPA's predictive model.

The EPA's model shows a child eats an average of .2 grams, or 200 micrograms, of dirt a day. Based on field data from Herculaneum and three other sources, Vornberg and several other scientists say the actual amount should be 60 micrograms, or .06 grams a day.

The modified model matches actual data collected in 1975 and 1984 and, using the model, Vornberg was able to make a baseline projection for 1990. And, by varying the amounts of lead in the air, dust and soil, modified projections were made of what effect reductions in those levels would have.

The projected baseline blood

lead level for 1990 would drop 3.9 micrograms per deciliter from the 1984 level of 13.8 micrograms per deciliter, to 9.9 micrograms per deciliter.

Using the same model, an 85 percent reduction in the soil lead level would lead to a blood lead level of 8.6 micrograms per deciliter or a 13.1 percent reduction.

A 50 percent reduction in indoor dust lead would lead to a blood lead level of 6.6, or a 33.3 percent reduction, and a 75 percent reduction in indoor dust lead would bring a blood lead level of 5.0, or a 49.5 percent reduction.

The conclusion to the Vornberg, Phillips and Lanzafame study says:

"As a result of the study at Herculaneum, the authors are advocating that the biokinetic uptake model or a subsequent, more sophisticated version be used in developing a strategy to reduce blood lead levels in a community where a documented health problem exists.

"It is clear from the predictive power of this tool that we have moved beyond designating a simple soil lead standard or air lead standard and we must attack the problem on a case-

by-case basis analyzing all of the sources and pathways.

"In addition, we must not overlook house-specific plumbing, paint or ceramic ware problems."

Bradley said the 500 ppm level would continue to be used as the criteria for cleanup of lead-contaminated soil in Granite City, Madison, Venice and Eagle Park.

The plan calls for removal of soil in residential areas with a lead level of 500 ppm or greater.

He said the level was set because there is no current standard for safe lead levels in soil and because a complete quantitative risk assessment cannot be done.

"To be considered our guideline is 500 ppm to 1,000 ppm for residential soil," Bradley said. "Our only question is where to go in that range."

"In Granite City we decided on 500 ppm because the contamination came from a smelter stack, making it the most transmittable, because residential areas are located directly around the site and because Granite City is an industrial town with additional health risks beyond the lead."

## Military

### Larry Brock

Navy Seaman Recruit Larry G. Brock, son of Larry G. and Mary F. Brock of Mitchell, has completed recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Fla.

In the eight-week training cycle, Brock studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic fields.

His studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid. Personnel who complete this course of instruction are eligible for three hours of college credit in physical education and hygiene.

A 1989 graduate of Granite City High School, Brock joined the Navy in August 1989.

### Leslie Holik

Army Sgt. 1st Class Leslie H. Holik has been decorated with the sixth award of the Good Conduct Medal in West Germany.

The award was presented for exemplary conduct while in the active service of the United States.

He is a quality assurance inspector with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Combat Equipment Battalion East, West Germany.

Holik is the son of Virginia Holik of Granite City.

The sergeant is a 1969 graduate of Granite City High School.

Forms for free bridal announcements are available at the paper, 1815 Delmar Ave., Granite City, Ill. 62040. Contact us at 876-2000.

## Coun seco

By John Milazzo  
Staff writer

EDWARDSVILLE Bank was retained as underwriter for phase of a two-phase for construction of the Madison County Union building.

The County Board resolution, jointly signed by its buildings and firmities, naming the underwriter for the \$4.5 million.

The board approved phase, for \$9.5 million.

## Waste senior

By Martin Richter  
Staff writer

In the world of business companies usually talk in terms of burying their losses than cooperating.

But two of the big waste management companies have teamed up to money for senior citizens.

Belleville Area Community Programs and Services (PSOP) is a village area resident paper, aluminum and raise money through.

And PSOP also is helping hand from Ferris Industries, which

## No ta

By John Milazzo  
Staff writer

EDWARDSVILLE Madison County Wednesday approved designation of the Alton/Twin Rivers and Visitors Bureau official organization for

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Wednesday, March 7, 1990

4 Sections, 32 Pages

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS

## is S&L, position



Paul Sodko

time for 'career change'

aul will be missed. I'm e."

adren said Sodko's resignation has "no bearing whatsoever on the soundness of money he association."

The S&L has assets of \$115 million and deposits of \$116 million. See COUNTY FEDERAL, Page 8A)

# EPA worried about children

Says lead levels present near Taracorp site pose threat to youngsters

By Andy Stirling  
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — As many as 90 percent of children under age 6 in the proposed cleanup area around Taracorp may have damaging levels of lead in their blood, a toxicologist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Monday.

Pat VanLeeuwen made her comments at a public hearing in City Hall. The hearing was scheduled after the mayors of Granite City and Madison and U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello asked the EPA to base its cleanup plan on blood lead levels instead of on soil lead levels.

The U.S. EPA proposes scraping six inches of topsoil from all businesses and residences in a 55-city-block area where lead is present in the soil at levels greater than 500 parts per million.

The soil would be consolidated into the 250,000-ton Taracorp pile in the 1500 block of State Street. The resulting mound would be capped with a synthetic liner,



Toxicologist Pat VanLeeuwen makes her comments.

clay and sod.

The plan is estimated to cost about \$25 million and take about two years to complete. NL Industries, which owned the Taracorp site until 1979, favors a cheaper plan (\$6.8 million) that would clean up a smaller area, based on contamination of 1,000 parts per million.

That plan would clean up all

areas with lead levels of more than 1,000 parts per million, affecting about 1,000 residents. The EPA's plan would affect 3,000 to 4,000 residents and clean up all areas with lead levels higher than 500 parts per million.

In the 55-block area, lead levels in the soil are said to range

from 500 to 20,000 parts per million. The Taracorp pile itself has 300,000 parts per million.

EPA's VanLeeuwen based her estimates on computer models of lead sites in Baltimore and Cincinnati.

"We feel that 500 ppm is probably the minimum cleanup level we would accept, because even at 500 ppm a light percentage of children start to show elevated blood levels," she said.

At 1,000 parts per million, she said, "We feel the increase in the number of children with more severe effects is going to be significant."

High exposure to lead can damage the nervous and digestive systems. It is most hazardous to children, often impairing mental development and stunting growth, according to the EPA.

VanLeeuwen said that at 500 parts per million in soil, about 60 percent of children under age 3 would have blood lead levels of 10 to 15 micrograms per deciliter, a level she said toxicologists assume can cause anemia.

At higher levels, she said, lead causes problems in blood and bone formation and muscle control. At still higher levels, intelligence can be affected, she said.

Brad Bradley, the EPA's Taf-

(See LEAD, Page 8A)

## Thief gets

Granite City man gets BAC seat

Brad  
Brad  
11th Floor  
2300 Delacour

## INSIDE

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**Nature:** Computer-run irrigation system helps restore wetlands 4

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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# Illinois Post

SECTION 1

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1990

## EPA Assailed On Granite City Cleanup

Civic and business leaders in Granite City make no words when describing the impact of a \$25 million plan by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up lead-contaminated soil from a 55-block area in the city.

"The future of Granite City is very, very dim," Mayor Von Dee Cruse says.

Harold Cavins, president of the city's Board of Realtors, says: "The EPA has dropped a bomb on us."

And John J. Hopkins, treasurer of the Downtown Neighborhood Restoration Society, says: "This is a perfect example of the cure being worse than the disease."

They all place the blame squarely on the shoulders of the federal environmental agency. The problem, they say, is that the agency has proposed cleaning up the area around the Taracorp Industries plant at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard, without ever conducting any detailed tests of the blood lead levels in residents who live there.

Some real estate agents who handle property in the 55-block area have begun adding on a "Soil Cleanup Advisory" to all sales contracts to protect themselves from being sued by buyers who may not know about the lead contamination.

The advisory says that according to the federal environmental agency, soil in the area "may or may not be contaminated with lead."

### 'Cure Worse Than Disease,' Civic, Business Leaders Say

It goes on to say that while there are no lead standards, the agency plans to dig up soil in residential areas.

Cavins, who is also sales manager at Crews Realty, said he hated asking his sales agents to include that advisory but felt it necessary for legal reasons.

"What that is, is a scare letter, but we have to include it to protect ourselves," Cavins said.

The Realtors, as well as civic and business leaders, say they think it is "irresponsible" of the federal environmental agency to proceed with its cleanup plan without conducting a health study.

Thomas Long, an official with the Illinois Department of Public Health, has said that his agency would like to do a health study of the area's residents but cannot afford the \$250,000 estimated cost.

And the federal environmental agency says it does not need to conduct such a study because it already knows from studies elsewhere in the nation that given the lead levels in the soil, more than 90 percent of the children in the area can be expected to have high lead levels in their blood.

The area consists of residential and some commercial property surrounding the Taracorp site, where soil contamination ranges from 500 parts of lead for each million parts of soil to 20,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil.

A 250,000-ton slag heap sitting at Taracorp has 300,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil, or 30 percent lead. The lead contamination goes back several decades. NL Industries owned the plant from 1928 to 1979, when Taracorp bought it.

But critics of the cleanup proposal say they want to see proof of adverse health effects before the plan is carried out.

"If we have a health problem here, then we want it cleaned up, and I will be the first one out there to help clean it up," Cruse said. "But they haven't shown me that we have a health problem."

In a letter sent this week to the federal environmental agency and copies sent to legislators, the city's Board of Realtors says that the area around the Taracorp site "has been stigmatized and in all probability made unsalable."

The board asks that the agency conduct thorough blood-lead studies, clearly establishing that residents are suffering from lead poisoning.

R.C. Bush, executive vice president of the Tri-Cities Area Chamber of Commerce, agreed with Cruse and Cavins that the lead contamination and the cleanup plan would have a devastating economic effect in the area.

Bush said that although he believed that health concerns ought to come first, the federal environmental agency has so far failed to convince him of the adverse health effects.

"We want to be sure that the level the EPA is saying is unsafe is in fact unsafe," Bush said. "If it is, we want it cleaned up. But that much turmoil, that much heavy equipment being used to dig up soil could really effect the economic development efforts."

Hopkins, of the Downtown Neighborhood Restoration Society, said that his group had sent petitions signed by 375 residents to legislators and to the federal environmental agency. The petitions ask that either the agency reduce its cleanup plan to clean up only the slag heap at Taracorp, or that the agency conduct "valid scientific" health studies to document health problems.

Under the federal environmental agency's plans, all soil in the 55-block area would be dug up, most to a depth of 6 inches, and hauled



Mayor Von Dee Cruse

"Future of Granite City very, very dim"

to the Taracorp site. All soil which has lead level greater than 500 parts of lead for each million parts of soil will be cleaned up and hauled to the slag heap at Taracorp.

## Illinois Leads Nation

## •Federal

(Continued from Page 1A)

lion in 20,000 accounts. Adreon said a successor would not be named immediately.

At Paine Webber, Sodko said he would be working closely with account executive Joe Corwin.

He said the field of fixed-income securities was a logical continuation of his career. Before joining Madison County Federal, he was a certified public accountant and financial counselor.

## •Lead

(Continued from Page 1A)

acorp project manager, said the agency would welcome blood tests but the results would have no bearing on its extensive cleanup plans.

"Blood tests would give residents an indication of short-term impact of the lead and could help alleviate fears," Bradley said. "But they only provide a snapshot and are not a good indication of long-term affects."

But Bradley said that the EPA did not plan to clean up all of Baltimore, where the lead levels in soil were found to average 800 parts per million.

Kathy Andria, a resident of Maple Street in the affected area, came away from the hearing convinced there was a danger to children. Her nephew helps her garden, she said.

"I just got so incensed at the mayor, saying 'I wouldn't eat dirt if it didn't have lead in it.' That blew my mind."

Andria referred to VanLeeuwen's estimate that 60 percent of the young children in the area could have nerve damage or anemia. "And they're going off to Washington to stop it? They should be going off to start something."

"(The mayors) are interested in downtown. I'm interested in the children," Andria said. "If house values go down, so be it. But we can't lose our child to this."

Monday said estimates received for the pipe have ranged as high as \$50,000 and that this figure does not take into account costly asbestos removal required by state law for such a project.

William "Skip" Krumeich, D-Edwardsville, said he recently went into the crawl space to inspect

D-Granite City, acknowledged that raters had said they could count the tax increase. But he pointed out that the plant was intended for operations on a scale that would be as old as the home.

## Society discusses newcomer

The American Cancer Society's annual door-to-door education and fund-raising crusade takes place during April, National Cancer Control Month.

Currently, however, there is a look-alike organization, the "Cancer Fund of America," whose fund-raising and door-to-door volunteer recruitment methods and materials bear a striking resemblance to those of the American Cancer Society.

A Cancer Society spokesman said the Cancer Fund of America has employed the controversial "charity sweepstakes" fund-raising methods in the past, coming under the scrutiny of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Attorneys General in several states.

For information about the American Cancer Society, call toll-free, at 1-800-ACS-2345.

In addition, members of the public may contact their local Better Business Bureau for information on:

National Charities Information Bureau (NCIB), 19 Union Square West, New York, N.Y. 10003



**VARIETY TIME:** Thomas Marschel, public executive officer of the Suburban Journals telethon Chairman Johnny Londoff, left Forsythe at this weekend's Sammy Day Telethon. Despite the absence of Davis, who throat cancer, the telethon raised \$2.55 million. Suburban Journals donated a full-page a special coupon section, and contributed \$2

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Granite City Journal 3/07/90

network break down, the city manager is usually out the door.

Banovetz said this can lead to a quick and unforeseeable turnover, making that a city manager's contract guaranteed "until the next council meeting."

Under the city manager form of government, the city council with a

1991

Banovetz said a city manager's length of tenure depends largely on the support the manager and his administrative staff receive and on the salary he is offered. According to the International City Management Association, a city the size of Collinsville can expect to pay between \$48,000 and \$55,000.

## Supporting the team

Bob Herr of Herr Funeral Home in Collinsville arranges a 2-foot by 30-foot sign that runs across the balcony of the funeral home located on Main Street in Collinsville. Herr had the sign made for the Kahoks' sectional basketball bid, but said it will be used to show support for all

Collinsville High School sports teams when they enter postseason play. Herr said the other side of the "Go, Go, Go" portion of the sign says "Congratulations" and will be displayed when the Kahoks win the state basketball tournament in Champaign/Urbana.

# Children may be harmed by high levels of lead

By DAVID GOSNELL  
News-Democrat

GRANITE CITY — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday used a computer model to show at least half of the children within a half-mile radius of an old lead smelter could be harmed.

But some residents remain skeptical about the EPA's proposal to remove up to six inches of topsoil from a 55-block area surrounding the NL Industries site on the south side of Granite City. The soil would then be entombed in a large pile with other lead waste if the \$25 million plan is approved.

At a public hearing at City Hall, Pat VanLeeuwen, an EPA toxicologist, said recent lead exposure models indicate that at least half

## Lead levels studied: Page 2B

of the young children living in the 55-block area would exceed acceptable exposure limits for lead. VanLeeuwen said models made of similar lead sites in Baltimore and Cincinnati leave the EPA with little doubt a hazard exists for children living in the area.

VanLeeuwen said the models, which are being backed up with blood testing on children at the Baltimore site, are accurate and show a direct link between developmental disabilities in exposed infants and soil with 800 parts of lead per million. Those levels or greater would be found in most yards in the 55-block area.

"We're looking at protecting the general population," she said.

She said results of individual blood tests on children in Granite City would not change the agency's cleanup plans because the EPA does not want to take risks by skimping on the cleanup, which could begin in about 18 months.

Blood tests have been pushed by Granite City Mayor Von Dee Cruse, Madison Mayor John Belkoff and a citizens group. The mayors and group questioned whether the EPA has proof of a health hazard to justify disrupting a sizable portion of the city.

But Kathy Andria, who lives within the cleanup area on Maple Street, said she thinks there is enough evidence to proceed with the EPA's cleanup proposal. She said Cruse and

others should end calls for further blood testing.

"From my understanding, there is definitely a hazard," Andria said. "Everybody is trying to pretend it doesn't exist.... I think we should consider the children's health instead of the property."

NL Industries, which owns the site where a lead smelter operated until 1982, is pushing for an alternative cleanup plan that would involve a much smaller area and cost about \$6 million.

Granite City real estate agent Harold Cavins, asked why a cleanup does not begin immediately whether there is a health risk.

"Is it there or isn't it? If it is, then let's get it out of there," Cavins said.

See LEAD/5B

## Troy action on water supply releases truck wash permit

By CECILIA DAMES  
News-Democrat

TROY — City officials have proved they are taking the necessary steps to solve Troy's water shortage and will be granted a permit for a truck wash, a state engineer said Monday.

Almost two weeks ago, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency engineer Liam McDonnell said Troy would not be granted a waterline

taking significant steps to solve its water shortage, McDonnell said. Armes' letter was also accompanied by a letter from Henneghan and Associates Engineering, outlining needed water improvements.

"We feel they are diligently and to the best of their ability trying to solve their water problems," McDonnell said. "They're actually a lot far



## Student loans threatened, Collins says

By DOUG MOORE  
News-Democrat

COLLINSVILLE — A Democratic candidate for Illinois comptroller said Monday that outrageous default rates, ill-informed students and a lack

Belle. News. Demo. 3/6/90

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News Democrat/Mary Burt

discuss lead

In fiscal year 1989, the sale of the \$2 salmon stamp brought in \$277,500. Add on interest and other miscellaneous contributions, and the fund came closer to \$290,000. Gray Pierson of the department's license, permits and titles department said the number of stamps sold has been on the increase.

"The 1989 figures are still being returned by the vendors, but in 1988 we sold 141,933 of them," Pierson said. "It's getting to be a big industry. People will come in from other states and buy a stamp just to fish on Lake Michigan for a day."

While Pierson said the number of waterfowl stamps sold "has been going the other way" of the booming salmon figures, the actual fund isn't hurting. The stamp's price tag is much higher at \$10, allowing revenues to be as high as the fiscal year 1989 total of \$393,300. Also, Bandy said the private hunting organization Ducks Unlimited periodically donates funds that amount to about \$175,000 a year through its nationwide Marsh Program.

Organizations like Ducks Unlimited pushed the federal government and then the states to put more money into waterfowl projects. A spokesman for the organization, Gary Swanson, said the private sector had to pick up the tab for land acquisition and species propagation before waterfowl stamp programs.

"The reason the stamps (exist) is because waterfowl hunters were the people interested in starting it," Swanson said. "Part of the reason we were involved is because waterfowl are migratory, so we have an interest in every state... It's been a good marriage for us."

The state duck stamp must be bought along with a federal migratory waterfowl stamp.

## Lead—

Continued from 1B

The EPA's project manager for the cleanup, Brad Bradley, said the lead exposure threat should not be viewed as an immediate health risk but as a potential one, noting that it takes at least three years to accumulate enough lead to cause disabilities in children.

"Then it's not a real health hazard. It's a potential health hazard," Cavins said.

Madison resident Don Kary lives on the far edge of the cleanup area. He said his neighbor across the street is not within the cleanup area, yet there is no proof that the neighbor's soil is clean.

"They didn't do specific site testing and they should have," Kary said. "For them to turn around and publish a map, pointing a finger at your property... it scares the hell out of you. It affects your whole life."

Bradley said each yard would be tested for lead levels before the cleanup would begin.



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Post Disp. 3/6/90

ILLINOIS

ST. LOUIS POST-DISP

# High Levels Feared In Children

By Safir Ahmed  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

About 90 percent of children under the age of 6 who live around an old lead smelter in Granite City may have high lead levels in their blood, a federal government toxicologist said Monday.

Pat VanLeeuwen, a toxicologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, made the estimate at a public "availability session" held at City Hall in Granite City. The EPA has proposed a \$25 million cleanup plan for a 55-block area around the Taracorp Industries plant in Granite City. Extremely high lead levels have been found in the soil in that area.

VanLeeuwen said that her estimate of 90 percent of children under 6 years of age having high lead levels was based on a study of an area in Baltimore, where soil contamination levels showed an average of 808 parts of lead for each million parts of soil.

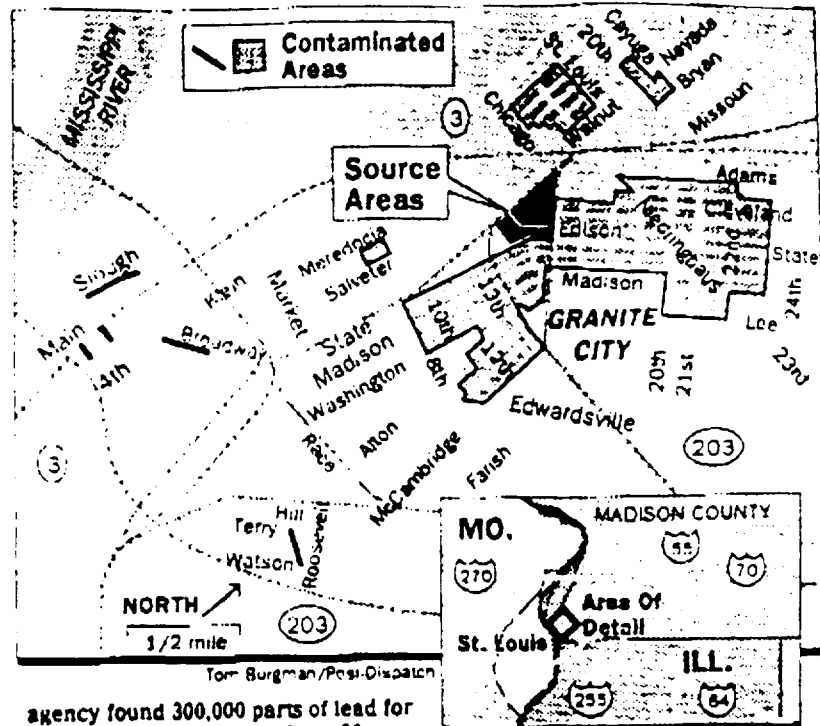
In that area, the EPA found 89 percent of children below the age of 6 had blood-lead levels greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter. The EPA believes that children begin to suffer nerve damage at that level.

Continued exposure at high levels eventually can cause mental retardation, officials said.

In Granite City, the soil-contamination is much worse than in Baltimore.

In the 55-block area around the Taracorp site, at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard, lead levels have ranged from 500 to 20,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil. At a 250,000-ton slag heap at the site, the

## Lead Contamination



agency found 300,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil, or 30 percent lead.

And while no state or federal agency had conducted any comprehensive blood tests of residents in the area, VanLeeuwen said that the EPA believed the best answer was simply to clean up the soil in the area.

Last week, a senior toxicologist at the Illinois Department of Public Health, called for a comprehensive blood-lead level study of residents in the area. Thomas Long, the toxicologist, estimated the study would cost about \$250,000; he also said his agency lacked money for it.

VanLeeuwen said that the national figures released Monday by the Environmental Defense Fund do not take into account lead smelters or other sources of lead contamination in an area.

"In most urban areas, you are going to find that 45 to 50 percent of children under 6 have elevated lead levels," VanLeeuwen said. "Here in Granite City, in addition to everything else, you have the lead smelter problem so you will find elevated lead levels."

Under the EPA's plan, every yard and all unpaved areas around the Taracorp site would be dug up, most to a depth of 6 inches, and the dirt would be hauled to the slag heap. The heap then would be entombed under layers of plastic, rock, clay and topsoil.

The slag heap dates back several decades when NL Industries owned the steel products plant before Taracorp bought it in 1979. NL owned the plant from 1928 until 1979.

## Children

From page one

cause of lead poisoning to children

was down from 9 percent in 1988 and 10.3 percent in 1987.)

But Copley said the city's cutoff point for determining what is an "elevated blood lead level" uses the existing standard of 25 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood. He said the U.S.

## LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDREN

Percentage and approximate number of children ages 6 months to 5 years estimated to have lead levels of more than 15 micrograms per deciliter in 1989

By Bill

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# Granite City Press-Record Home Journal

The Suburban Newspapers of Greater St. Louis

Sunday, March 4, 1990



(Photo by Buddy Bortz)

**N. BEE:** Sixth graders Tricia Cavins (her name tag is d...ah Gouy compete in the annual Granite City School spelling bee at Coolidge Junior High School last Saturday. Sarah won the spelling 'janitor.' Tricia lost when she misspelled the word

## Verify lead level first, EPA told

By Jason Moody  
Staff writer

WASHINGTON — Mayors from Granite City and Madison asked a senior Environmental Protection Agency official Thursday to explore alternatives to a \$35 million plan for cleaning up lead deposits near Taracorp's lead products plant.

At a meeting on Capitol Hill attended by U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, Mayors Von Dee Cruse of Granite City and John Bellico of Madison asked the EPA to consider conducting blood tests on local residents for any evidence of high lead levels before going forward with the plan.

"We want to make sure that if they are going to spend \$35 million on a lead cleanup plan, that all appropriate agencies are convinced there is a serious health problem," said Cruse.

The EPA made no commitments at the meeting and has not yet decided on a plan of action, said John Grand of the EPA's regional office.

The EPA's \$35 million plan would include removal of about 6 inches of soil from residential

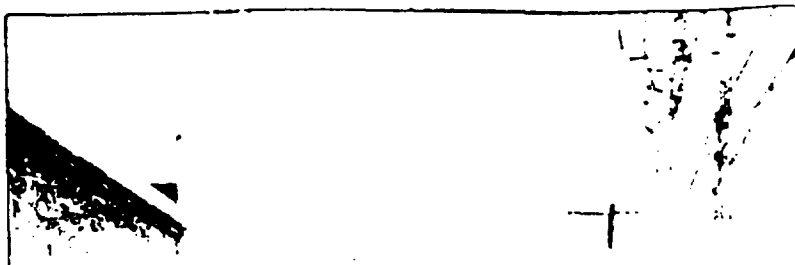
(See LEAD Page 8A)

## prompts growing pains ster loses alley

cle site.

Certain restrictions were added to the site plan to mollify the residents. These included construction of a privacy fence and a strip of greenery instead of an alley.

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3/4/90

# Granite City Press-Record

## News

### •Loman

(Continued from Page 1A)

good employees. It's worked out well. I've enjoyed it and made a lot of friends."

Loman started with Central Bank of Granite City (then called Granite City Trust and Savings Bank) on Feb. 2, 1940, as a clerk. He was made a vice president in 1952, a position he still holds in semi-retirement. He works four mornings a week.

Loman has served on the boards of a number of organizations, including the Tri-Cities Area Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-City Chapter of the American Red Cross and several banking organizations.

He has been a member of the Granite City Park Board since 1951. He was general chairman in 1971 of celebration of Granite City's first 75 years as a city.

Asked for "dirt" on Loman, real estate man Andy Gitchoff said he couldn't come up with any.

"I've known him for 60 years," Gitchoff said. "This guy's too damn clean!"

But Loman himself offered some dirt sort of. He said he took up golf just last summer. "I beat 'em all because I cheat!" he said with a hearty laugh.

In July, Loman and his wife, Marie, will celebrate 49 years of marriage. Loman said Marie was the reason he wound up in banking. After graduating from Granite City High School in 1936, Loman went to work as a welder at American Steel. He worked there for four years, but spent much of the time laid off.

He hired on at the bank, he said, because "I wanted a steady job. I wanted to get married!" Barry and Marie Loman have three children.

### •Lead

(Continued from Page 1A)

areas surrounding the Taracorp waste pile at 15th and State streets in Granite City. Local officials have expressed concern that the activity might disrupt business and inconvenience nearby residents.

"They told the EPA they don't want to get halfway through digging up people's yards and find out about new statistics that show the whole project wasn't necessary," said Costello spokesman Brian Lott about Thursday's meeting.

Brad Bradley, the EPA's Taracorp project manager, said the agency would welcome blood tests but the results would have no bearing on its extensive cleanup plans.

"Blood tests would give residents an indication of short-term impact of the lead and could help alleviate fears," Bradley said. "But they only provide a snapshot and are not a good indication of long-term affects."

High exposure to lead can damage the nervous and digestive system. It is most hazardous to children, often impairing mental development and stunting growth, according to the EPA.

The EPA is scheduled to make

a final decision on a cleanup plan by March 30 and is accepting public comment until March 12.

NL (National Lead) Industries Inc., which sold its lead smelting company to Taracorp in 1979, has submitted its own cleanup proposal, which would cost about \$6.8 million.

That plan would clean up all areas with lead levels of more than 1,000 parts per million, affecting about 1,000 residents. The EPA's plan would affect 3,000 to 4,000 households, and clean up all areas with lead levels higher than 500 parts per million.

Costello said he would continue to work with Frank Covington, the EPA official who met with the mayors Thursday, and try to reach a compromise.

"I was pleased with the cooperative attitude exhibited by Mr. Covington, and his willingness to listen to the mayors and commit to close communication with them on this very important matter," Costello said.

"I will continue to work with local officials and residents of the area to make sure that their concerns are heard by the U.S. EPA."

### •Video

(Continued from Page 1A)

in, from St. Clair Avenue to its back door. Hanke met with Landinasters on Thursday and told them they would have to take out the paved alley and extend a concrete drainage ditch they installed, which runs from the store's boundary with Quik-Trip to where the alley ends.

Hanke said the company would be allowed to keep about 60 feet of alley to facilitate traffic flow off St. Clair Avenue.

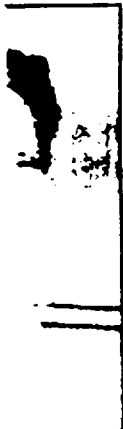
The shortened alley will make an Illinois Power cross-connect box inaccessible by vehicle. But an EPA worker said it is not a

yards.

Hanke said that if the residents don't tear down their fences, the stores will be responsible for keeping weeds from growing up between the fences.

Residents of Myrtle Avenue have complained for years about how water drains from the commercial site. To alleviate part of the problem, the city made the new company's developers agree to build earth berms to channel runoff water away from the residents' property.

But part of the problem will remain unsolved. Water runs out onto St. Clair Avenue from the



Page 1  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
3/2/90

## Be Missing Farmer

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ad taken Cade  
on Skiles to a site  
was going to be

planted. The site was only yards from the grave  
uncovered Thursday, Cade said. Hart occasionally  
has acted as a police informant, Cade said.

Asked about the motive, Cade said, "Our infor-  
mation at this time" is that Weidert was killed to  
keep him from testifying at Hart's trial.

Hart called the Post-Dispatch last year to com-  
plain that he had been unfairly implicated in an  
article on Weidert's disappearance. He said he did  
not commit the burglary, knew nothing about the  
disappearance and called Weidert a "fruitcake"  
bent on a personal vendetta.

Because of a lengthy record of convictions for  
crimes ranging from car theft to writing bad  
checks, Hart had been charged as a persistent  
offender in the pending burglary case and faced a

See WEIDERT, Page 12

## reign Aid May Be Shifted

George Bush's ad-  
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Baker III said

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Rep. David R.

Obey, D-Wis. — he said that administration sup-  
port for cuts in aid would "depend on whether we  
do it in a non-discriminatory manner."

Baker said he had not found any significant  
reduction in tensions in the Middle East. But he  
added "At the same time, we must find a way to  
respond to changes in Eastern Europe, in Panama  
and in Nicaragua.

"If these leaders are not able to produce for  
their people, we will rue the day" that the United  
States fell short in providing aid, he said.

"We are talking about supporting an extraordi-  
nary outbreak of freedom and democracy."

But the secretary said he did not want to see a  
repeat of this year's budget crunch, in which some

See BAKER, Page 16

## Cancels Buses As Strike Nears

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p.m. Thursday were canceled in anticipation of a  
strike. Departures to Florida, Texas, Louisiana  
and Arizona were scrubbed, as well as an after-  
noon run to California. The only buses departing  
were those filled with soldiers headed for Fort  
Leonard Wood.

Greyhound officials said they were canceling  
the long-distance runs so that passengers would  
not be stranded in small towns without access to  
other transportation.

Bus drivers traveling through the downtown St.  
Louis terminal Thursday said wages were the

See BUS, Page 6

## Dirty Issue

### Two Mayors Want Tests On Residents Close To Slag Heap

By Safir Ahmed  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The mayors of Granite City  
and Madison asked the U.S. En-  
vironmental Protection Agency  
on Thursday to conduct blood  
tests of thousands of residents in  
their cities before beginning a  
proposed \$25 million cleanup of  
lead-contaminated soil.

"We want to make sure that if  
they are going to spend \$25 mil-  
lion on a lead cleanup plan, that  
all appropriate agencies are con-  
vinced there is a serious health  
problem," said Granite City  
Mayor Von Dee Cruse, who has  
opposed the cleanup plan be-  
cause he is unconvinced people  
are being harmed.

Cruse issued the statement af-  
ter a meeting Thursday at the  
Washington office of U.S. Rep.  
Jerry Costello, D-Belleville. Also  
present at the meeting were  
Frank Covington, the EPA's de-  
puty regional administrator, and  
Madison Mayor John Bellicoff.

Meanwhile, Thomas Long, a  
state health official, agreed with  
the mayors on the need for a  
detailed health study. He esti-  
mated that it would cost  
\$250,000. He added that the state  
agency had no money to conduct  
such a study.

Although Covington agreed to  
look into the mayors' request,  
Brad Bradley, the federal envi-  
ronmental agency's remedial  
project manager in Chicago, said  
he doubted that the agency  
would change its cleanup plans.

See LEAD, Page 6

# Mortgage Distributions Studied

## S&L Loans More Common In White Neighborhoods, Report Says

By Cynthia Todd  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Residents of predominantly white neighborhoods in St. Louis city and county in 1986 and 1987 were nine times more likely to get mortgages from city and county savings and loan institutions than residents of predominantly black neighborhoods, says a study made public Thursday.

Residents of neighborhoods that were more than 90 percent white received 366 loans for each 10,000 people in that period, while residents of neighborhoods that were more than 80 percent black received 39 loans for each 10,000 people.

The study was done by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN.

Representatives of some savings and loan institutions identified in the report said they had not seen it. But they said they did not discriminate in their lending practices.

"We make loans in any area as long

as the loans are marketable," said Timothy Sheehan, president and chief executive officer of Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Association. "We've never been written up by anyone for discriminating."

The study was based on the most recent information available from the Office of Thrift Supervision of Des Moines, ACORN said.

ACORN looked at how institutions made loans in all 286 census tracts in the city and county to determine loan trends. The population tracts were culled from the 1980 census.

The study found that, of the 40,463 loans totaling \$2.8 billion made in 1986 and 1987, 81 percent went to neighborhoods that were more than 90 percent white; 14 percent went to neighborhoods that were 60 to 90 percent white; 3 percent went to neighborhoods that were 40 to 80 percent black, and 2 percent went to neighborhoods that were more than 80 percent black.

The study says that 79 percent of

the population in St. Louis city and county live in predominantly white neighborhoods, while 21 percent of the population live in predominantly black neighborhoods.

ACORN officials say the data show that St. Louis-area savings and loans redline by income and by race, but that blacks have a slimmer chance of getting a loan than whites.

"You're much less likely to be able to get a loan if you're low- to moderate income, no matter what color you are," said Justine Petersen, an ACORN staff member who analyzed the information.

"But if you look at all the low-income people in this area, whites get more loans, 5 to 1."

While covering the entire savings and loan mortgage picture here, ACORN also looked at six of the larger institutions. The data, which were provided by each savings and loan, showed similar trends, ACORN said.

## Lead

From page one

based on blood tests

"We really, at this point, would not use blood-lead data to change the cleanup level," Bradley said.

Bradley said that blood tests would provide information only on short-term effects, while the agency's proposal is designed to be a long-term solution.

Under the agency's proposal, the lead-contaminated soil in Granite City, in Madison and in some alleys in Venice would be dug up to bring the levels down to no more than 500 parts of lead for each million parts of soil. The levels in residents' yards now range from a few hundred to 20,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil.

Under the plan, the contaminated soil would be dug up and taken back to its source: a 250,000-ton slag heap at the Taracorp Industries plant at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City. The slag heap itself contains about 300,000 parts per million, or 30 percent, lead.



Cruse



Bellcoff

The entire heap would then be entombed under layers of plastic, rock, clay and topsoil.

Under the plan, every yard and all unpaved areas within a half-mile of the Taracorp site would be dug up, most to a depth of six inches, and the dirt hauled to the slag heap.

Lead poses a greater danger to children than to adults. In children, particularly those younger than 2, lead can cause damage to the nervous system, leading to learning, behavioral and psychological problems. Prolonged exposure at high levels can cause mental retardation.

Despite the knowledge about lead

contamination from Taracorp, no state or federal agency has ever conducted any detailed health study of the area's residents.

Long, a senior toxicologist at the Illinois Department of Public Health, said Thursday that he would very much like to conduct a thorough health study of residents in the Granite City area, but he said it would cost as much as \$250,000. His agency lacks money for such a study, he said.

While he is not opposed to the EPA's cleanup plan, Long said he believes the EPA has picked an arbitrary cleanup level of 500 parts of lead for each million parts of soil.

"If that number has any validity, then let's trot out those studies," Long said, adding that he wants any cleanup level to be based on a detailed health study.

"If they really want to protect the public health, they should clean it down to zero parts per million," he said.

The federal environmental agency held a public hearing last month on its proposal and will be taking public comments until March 12. Soon after, a decision on the cleanup will be made.

## Bus

From page one

primary issue

"We haven't had a raise since about 1982, and in two contracts we lost 11 cents a mile pay over eight years," said Roger Parks of South St. Louis, who has logged 15 years as a driver. "We lost \$2 an hour at the hourly rate. We're way underpaid."

But Parks said he hoped that a strike could be averted.

ered its demand to a \$206 million increase in wages over the next three years, Mead said.

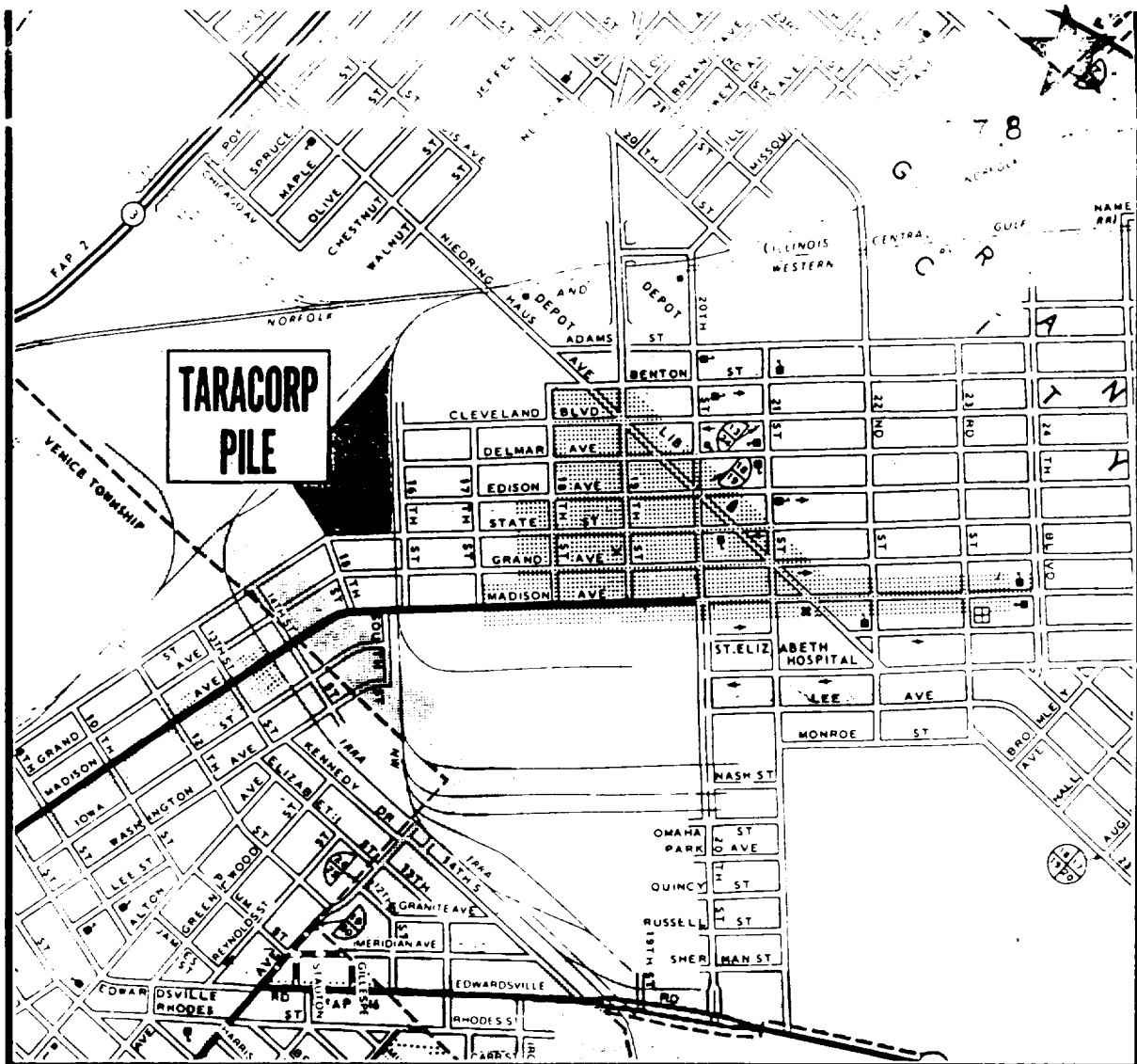
Greyhound said in the negotiations Thursday that it could not afford to increase its \$83 million, three-year offer.

Passengers at the St. Louis terminal Thursday afternoon said they were unaware of a possible strike and had made no contingency plans.

Andrew Fogg, 16, a Minneapolis high school student, was heading home through Kansas City after visiting his grandmother here. Fogg said

schedule today and will be back in full operation by the end of the month. The company has been advertising for drivers and several hundred were in training as of last week.





**CONTAMINATED AREAS** in Granite City and Madison scheduled for soil removal under the Superfund cleanup are shown by the shaded areas of this map. The soil would be added to the present Taracorp waste pile. Areas in Venice and Eagle park are also scheduled for cleanup.

# Mayor says lead cleanup threatens development

By Mike Myers  
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — Mayor Von Dee Cruse is not a fan of the proposed cleanup plan for the Taracorp lead contamination.

"They're talking about putting a hazardous waste dump right in the middle of the city," Cruse said. "... That is going to kill development. Who is going to build next to it?"

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. today in the Granite City Township building.

The EPA has proposed a \$25 million cleanup project that includes soil removal from residential property in a 55-block area within a half-mile radius of the Taracorp lead waste pile at 16th and State streets, removal of lead-contaminated paving material in several alleys in Venice and removal of lead-contaminated fill material in Eagle Park.

Under the plan, the material from all other sites would be moved to the Taracorp pile and the pile then permanently sealed as a containment area for the contaminated materials.

"If the contamination is serious enough to scrape six inches of dirt out of yards, it's serious enough to haul the dirt somewhere else," Cruse said. "You want a focal point for our community, well, when they get all that dirt piled up (on top of the existing pile) you're going to be able to see it from the Arch."

Cruse said he is tired of environmental groups "just ignoring" the economic effect their plans have on communities.

"I want clean air. I want clean water. But there has to be a compromise, (the general public) has got to start thinking about it," Cruse said. "They come waltzing into town with their program and wipe us off the map as far as the development of Granite City."

# Belleville News-Democrat METRO

Friday, March 2, 1990

Page 3, Section B

## Mayors ask EPA to do health study

By BRAD WEISENSTEIN  
News-Democrat

**GRANITE CITY** Area mayors asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday to produce a health study demonstrating the need for a \$25 million cleanup of a 55-block area located around a closed lead smelter.

Granite City Mayor Van Dee Cruse and Madison Mayor John Belkoff asked for a review of current information on high lead levels and a new health study during a meeting with the EPA's deputy regional administrator Frank Covington on Thursday afternoon in Washington, D.C.

They asked the U.S. EPA to fund a study to determine the lead's effects on residents, and review the findings and other lead contamination data with the Illinois EPA and

state Department of Public Health.

Covington agreed to consider the request to study lead levels in residents' blood and discuss the proposal with other U.S. EPA administrators.

Cruse said Thursday night he believes the EPA will make an effort to conduct some blood testing.

"I think they are as anxious as we to find if we really have a problem with lead," Cruse said. "We don't want to spend \$35 million of the taxpayers' money if it is not needed."

The EPA would attempt to recover cleanup costs, which have ranged from the EPA's \$25 million estimate to more than \$30 million — from NL Industries and any other companies responsible for creating lead waste piles at the site. The EPA plans to cap the piles and remove up to 6 inches of contaminated soil from

residents' yards.

Brad Bradley, manager of the EPA's Superfund program, said the agency must pick what it considers a safe lead level in the soil and clean the area to meet that standard now, while the company is paying for the effort.

"If we pick a level too high and we find later that the standard for exposure is lowered, then no one is going to come in and clean it up the next time," Bradley said.

The EPA has advocated removing soil contaminated to 500 parts of lead per million NL Industries, which operated a lead smelter in southern Granite City until 1982, and some residents have questioned that standard and suggested 1,000 parts per million would be safe and only impact a 10-block area.

Cruse said the scientific community has not agreed on a safe level of lead in soil. Estimates

have ranged from 500 parts to 5,000 parts per million.

Although it is better to err on the side of caution, John Hopkins, an attorney for the Downtown Neighborhood Restoration Society, said residents are faced with the unknown health effects or the stigma of such a massive cleanup and accompanying drops in real-estate values. The health study would show whether children in outlying neighborhoods really are at risk from the lead.

Bradley said the health study would benefit residents worried about the short-term health effects, but it would not tell regulators about the long-term effects from the lead exposure. He said the cleanup must be aimed at the long-term effects and the study probably would have little effect on decisions about the extent of the cleanup.

### Craft fair to be held in Collinsville

**COLLINSVILLE** — Quality crafters will be featured at the Good Shepherd Lutheran School spring craft fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

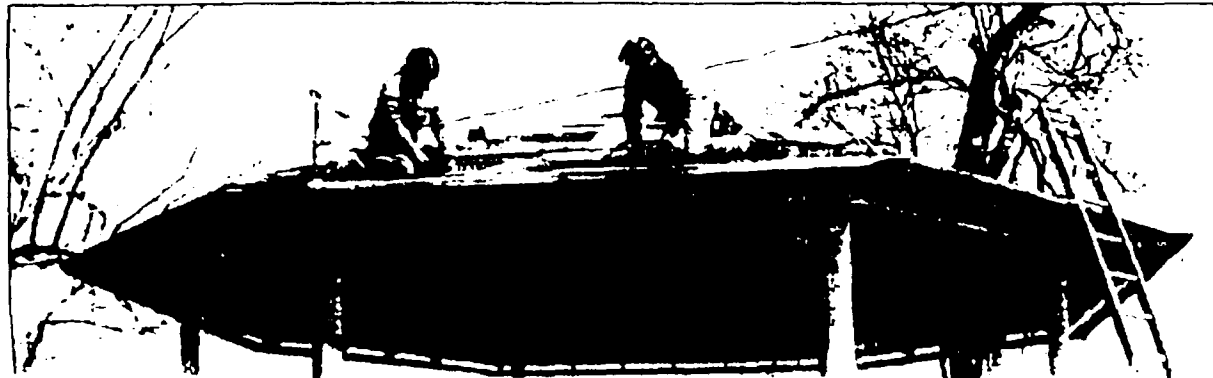
The craft show will be held in the school's gym at 1300 Belt Line Road. Handmade items include Victorian dolls, hand-woven baskets, hand-painted sweatshirts, quilts, Afghans, wreaths, woodworking pieces, a wedding fountain and many other items. Baseball cards and collectible coins will also be for sale.

Food will be available, and the eighth-grade class will hold a bake sale. The craft fair is sponsored by students and parents. Funds from the fair will help fund the eighth-grade class on a field trip to Washington, D.C., in May.

### Leclaire centennial celebration to begin

**EDWARDSVILLE** — The centennial of the historic village of Leclaire, an industrial village that is part of Edwardsville, will be celebrated at the Madison County Historical Museum starting Sunday.

Leclaire was a community



## Expert criticizes Panama

By DAVID GOSNELL  
News-Democrat

**EDWARDSVILLE** — An expert on international cocaine trafficking said the United States will have a difficult time scrutinizing Panamanian banks.



03/02/90

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## News Release



*Congressman*

**Jerry Costello**

1529 Longworth House Office Building

• Washington, D.C. 20515

• (202) 225-5661

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, March 1, 1990  
CONTACT: Brian Lott, 202/225-5661

**MAYORS CRUSE AND BELLCOFF MEET WITH  
U.S. EPA OFFICIAL, CONGRESSMAN COSTELLO**

WASHINGTON -- Granite City Mayor Von Dee Cruse and Madison Mayor John Bellcoff today asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to review all available evidence regarding the agency's proposed cleanup of lead around the Taracorp/NL Industries site in Granite City, and to consider funding blood tests regarding possible health effects to area residents.

At a meeting hosted by U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL), the mayors asked Frank Covington, the Deputy Regional Administrator for U.S. EPA, to review again with Illinois EPA and state Department of Public Health officials evidence of high lead levels in areas of Granite City.

"We want to make sure that if they are going to spend \$35 million on a lead cleanup plan, that all appropriate agencies are convinced there is a serious health problem," said Cruse. "The residents of Granite City will, I believe, appreciate any comprehensive, solid evidence that shows a serious risk posed by this lead."

"Our meeting today was very positive," said Bellcoff. "The Deputy Regional Administrator was very receptive to our suggestions, and carefully considered our perspective on this situation."

The mayors asked Covington to review the present environmental and health statistics, and to consider further statistics - including the testing of lead levels in blood of area residents - to determine the significance of the risk posed by the lead.

Covington agreed to consider the mayors' request for a blood level study and discuss it with other officials at U.S. EPA.

"I was pleased with the cooperative attitude exhibited by Mr. Covington, and his willingness to listen to the mayors and commit to close communication with them on this very important matter," Costello said. "I will continue to work with local officials and residents of the area to make sure that their concerns are heard by U.S. EPA."

# Granite City Press-Record

RUSPS226-1609

Volume 88, Number 8

Thursday, February 22, 1990

2 Sections, 24 Pages

PRICE 30¢

## State agrees to blood tests for lead

By Mike Myers  
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — Following a meeting in Springfield yesterday with local officials, the state has agreed to undertake a complete blood screening for residents who live in areas listed as lead contaminated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Those who attended the meeting are calling the latest developments in the Taracorp issue "good news."

Mayors Von Dee Cruse, Granite City, John Belicoff, Madison, and Tyrone Echols, Venice, and state Rep. Sam Wolf, D-Granite City, met with top officials of the Illinois Department of Public Health for approximately two hours Wednesday.

The EPA has proposed a \$35 million cleanup plan that would include removal of six inches of soil from residential areas in Madison and Granite City sur-

rounding the Taracorp waste pile at 15th and State streets in Granite City.

The plan also calls for removal of contaminated material used as paving material in some Venice alleys and as fill material in Eagle Park. All the contaminated material would be added to the Taracorp pile, which would then be permanently sealed.

"We were very encouraged because (the IDPH) felt the same way we did, that only a thorough blood screening can show if there is a real danger to public health," Cruse said. "They said they would be willing to participate in a screening. Now it's a question of money."

The next step, Cruse said, is to convince the EPA to pay for the testing, which the IDPH estimates will cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

"The EPA is ready to spend \$35 million and they don't know if there is a health problem or not," Cruse said. "They should

be willing to spend \$100,000 to find out."

Cruse said he and the other officials don't feel the EPA has presented any evidence of a real health problem around the Taracorp site.

He said the IDPH, in its comments at the public hearing on the cleanup proposal, also made it clear the evidence presented doesn't indicate a health hazard.

"What the EPA did was add together some risk factors and conclude there is a high risk," Cruse said.

Cruse said he and the other officials plan to meet with the EPA during the first week of March. He said the IDPH is drawing up a testing plan for them to present at that time.

At the officials' request, Cruse said, the end of the public comment period on the Taracorp cleanup has been extended from Feb. 24 to March 12.

## Granite calls for halt to cleanup unless tests show health hazard

By Mike Myers  
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — The City Council unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday calling for a stop to the cleanup of the Taracorp lead contamination until studies are done that determine if presents a significant health hazard.

If those studies indicate a health hazard, the resolution calls for an immediate cleanup that is limited to areas where residents have exhibited a significantly elevated lead level in their blood.

The resolution cites a previous study, done by the firm of O'Brien and Gear for the EPA, which showed no significant risk in the lead levels found in the soil of residential areas around the site and a previous study of blood lead levels done by the Illinois Department of Public Health that found no significant increase in blood lead levels.

The resolution also states the EPA has failed to make public any economic impact study of its

proposed cleanup alternatives.

If the testing determines a hazard exists, the resolution calls for:

- The EPA to redraw its cleanup proposal to include only those areas found by the O'Brien and Gear study to present a health hazard or where testing shows residents have significantly elevated blood lead levels based upon testing.

- Funds to be set aside to provide medical treatment for all persons found to have a significantly elevated level of lead in the blood.

- All material at the Taracorp pile located at 15th and State streets — and all other material deemed contaminated — to be removed to a toxic waste dump site.

If all parties, including the cities of Granite City, Madison and Venice, determine it is "economically infeasible or wholly impractical" to remove the pile, the resolution calls for the pile to be capped.

# 600 Object To EPA's Soil Cleanup Plan

By Robert Kelly  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A group of Granite City residents who oppose a \$25 million federal plan to clean up lead-contaminated soil in their neighborhood have gathered more than 600 signatures on petitions urging a halt to the proposal.

John J. Hopkins, a lawyer and one of the residents circulating the petitions, said Friday that he hoped the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would take note of the residents' opposition.

"We have to be optimistic and think that it will have some impact on the EPA," Hopkins said.

Under the EPA's proposal, lead-contaminated soil in a wide residential area around the Taracorp Industries plant at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard would be dug up and put back where the lead came from: a 250,000-ton slag heap at the Taracorp site.

Hopkins and others circulating the petitions contend that the plan is too wide-ranging and would disrupt their neighborhood too much. He said health problems from the lead contamination had yet to be documented enough to call for such a drastic removal of the soil.

Lead can cause a variety of health problems, ranging from headaches, weight loss and muscle pain to more serious effects such as kidney damage and high blood pressure.

In children, particularly those younger than age 2, lead can cause damage to the nervous system, leading to learning, behavioral and psychological problems. With prolonged exposure at high levels, it can cause mental retardation.

Hopkins said that the neighborhood was a historic area, with many restored turn-of-the-century homes, and that the EPA's plan could ruin the area aesthetically.

The contaminated areas include a large part of downtown Granite City, including City Hall, as well as several alleys in and near Madison and Venice that were paved more than 20 years ago with old battery casings contaminated with lead.

The alleys run through residential areas, and one of the alleys runs behind the Venice public school buildings at 700 Broadway.

Hopkins said most residents of



Robert LaRouche/Post-Dispatch  
This 250,000-ton slag heap sits at the Taracorp Industries plant site in Granite City. The heap contains old battery casings and furnace slag with a 30 percent lead content.

**"We have to be optimistic and think that [the petition effort] will have some impact on the EPA."**

JOHN J. HOPKINS, Granite City resident

the area agreed that they did not want their neighborhood torn up so thoroughly.

"As far as I know, nobody who has been requested to sign has refused to sign on any grounds other than they are not the owners of the property," he said.

He said he hoped about 800 signatures would be gathered before the petitions are turned over to the EPA by a Feb. 24 deadline for public comment on the proposed cleanup plan. Copies of the petitions will be sent later to Rep. Jerry F. Costello,

D-Bellefonte, and Sens. Alan J. Dixon, D-Bellefonte, and Paul Simon, D-Makanda, Hopkins said.

Residents who signed the petitions favor a less-costly plan of monitoring the soil in the area and conducting regular blood tests of residents to check the levels of lead in their blood, Hopkins said.

Under the EPA's cleanup plan, the entire slag heap at Taracorp would be entombed under layers of plastic, rock, clay and topsoil. The slag heap dates back several decades when NL Industries owned the

steel products plant before Taracorp bought it in 1979. NL owned the plant from 1928 until 1979.

The slag heap now contains about 300,000 parts of lead for each million parts of soil, or 30 percent lead. Although no laws limit the concentration of lead in the soil, state and federal experts believe that any amount greater than 500 parts of lead for each million parts of soil can be harmful, particularly to children.

Under the cleanup plan, every yard and all unpaved areas would be dug up, most to a depth of six inches, and the dirt hauled to the slag heap. The cleanup would reduce the lead contamination to a maximum of 500 parts of lead for every million parts of soil.

Officials acknowledge that the digging would considerably disrupt residents' lives.

Meanwhile, no state or federal agency has conducted any detailed health studies to determine just how much damage the lead has done to residents.





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 3

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

January 21, 1990

NOTE TO PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE NL/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE:

The following corrections are for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cleanup action factsheet and proposed plan. The corrections to the estimated costs are:

Alternative H is changed from \$13,392,630 to \$25,000,000,

Alternative E is changed from \$20,566,242 to \$31,000,000,

Alternative F is changed from \$34,342,284 to \$45,000,000,

Alternative G is changed from \$56,514,070 to \$67,000,000.

The public hearing to accept comments is February 8, 1990, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Ave., Granite City, Illinois.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

January 4, 1990

NOTE TO OFFICIALS:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been investigating the NL Taracorp, Granite City, Illinois superfund site and is now examining alternatives for cleanup at the site.

We are starting a public comment period on January 10, 1990, and would like to meet with you on January 9 at 1 p.m. in the Granite City City Hall conference room to answer any questions you may have.

The public comment period is going to run 45 days and we plan to have a public meeting to accept comments on the alternatives February 8 at 7 p.m., in the Township Hall, 2060 Delman Ave. We also plan to have small group meetings with citizens the week of the 23rd.

Enclosed is a copy of the ad that will appear in the local paper on January 10 and in the Granite City newspaper, January 11, 1990, announcing the start of the comment period and listing the cleanup alternatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Bradley".

Brad Bradley  
Remedial Project Manager  
(312) 886-4742

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MaryAnn Croce LaFaire".

MaryAnn Croce LaFaire  
Community Relations Coordinator  
(312) 886-1728

Enclosure

EPA LOGO

The United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
is accepting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

on a proposed cleanup plan for the

NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP LEAD SMELTER SUPERFUND SITE  
16th St. and Cleveland Blvd.  
Granite City, Illinois

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently completed its review of a feasibility study prepared for the NL Industries/Taracorp Lead Smelter Superfund site in Granite City, IL. The study evaluated cleanup alternatives for addressing contamination at the site.

U.S. EPA has identified several areas at and near the site that are contaminated, and may expose the community to lead through direct contact or inhalation of contaminated soil and dust. These areas include:

- A pile on the site used to store wastes from lead processing operations (Taracorp pile)
- A waste pile of battery case materials adjacent to the site (St. Louis Lead Recyclers (SLLR) pile)
- Two areas (The Venice Township alleys and Eagle Park Acres) where battery case material containing lead were used for fill and alley-paving
- Residential soils near the site which are contaminated with lead (Areas 2 through 8)
- Industrial soils on the adjacent Trust 454 and Tri-City Trucking Properties (Area 1)
- 25-35 drums on the surface of the Taracorp pile that contain lead wastes

The feasibility study evaluated cleanup alternatives and assessed each alternative on its effectiveness in protecting public health and the environment, technical feasibility, and cost. U.S. EPA considered the following alternatives:

#### **Alternative A: No Action**

**Monitoring:** Air quality monitoring; ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells

**Institutional controls:** site access restrictions; land use restrictions; deed use restrictions; sale restrictions

#### **Alternative B**

**Taracorp Pile:** multimedia cap; institutional controls

**Taracorp Drums:** off-site recovery at secondary lead smelter

**SLLR Piles:** excavate and consolidate with Taracorp pile

**Venice Alleys:** asphalt or sod cover based on usage

**Eagle Park Acres:** vegetated clay cap and institutional controls

**Area 1 Unpaved Surfaces:** asphalt or sod cover based on usage

**Area 2 Unpaved Surfaces:** asphalt or sod cover based on usage

**Area 3 Unpaved Surfaces:** asphalt or sod cover based on usage

**Monitoring:** Air and ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells; contingency plans

#### **Alternative C**

Alternative C is nearly identical to Alternative D, and therefore has been excluded from further consideration

#### **Alternative D**

**Taracorp Pile:** multimedia cap; institutional controls

**Taracorp Drums:** off-site recovery at secondary lead smelter

**SLLR piles:** excavate and consolidate with Taracorp pile

**Venice Alleys:** excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces

**Eagle Park Acres:** excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces

**Area 1 Unpaved Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces

**Area 2 Unpaved Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces

**Area 3 Unpaved Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces

**Monitoring:** air and ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells; contingency plans

#### **Alternative E**

**Taracorp Pile:** Multimedia cap; supplemental liner; insititutional controls

**Taracorp Drums:** Off-site recovery at secondary lead smelter  
**SLLR Piles:** excavate and consolidate with Taracorp pile  
**Venice Alleys:** excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Eagle Park Acres:** excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Area 1 Unpaved Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Areas 2-8 Residential Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Monitoring:** air and ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells; contingency plans

#### **Alternative F**

**Taracorp Pile:** multimedia cap; supplemental liner; recovery of plastic battery case materials and lead; institutional controls  
**Taracorp Drums:** off-site recovery at secondary lead smelter  
**SLLR piles:** excavate and consolidate with Taracorp pile  
**Venice Alleys:** excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Eagle Park Acres:** excavate case materials and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Area 1 Unpaved Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Areas 2-8 Residential Surfaces:** excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
**Monitoring:** air and ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells; contingency plans

#### **Alternative G**

**Taracorp Pile:** recovery of plastic battery case material and lead; disposal of residuals in RCRA landfill  
**Taracorp Drums:** off-site recovery at secondary lead smelter  
**SLLR Piles:** disposal in RCRA landfill  
**Venice Alleys:** excavate case material; disposal in RCRA landfill; restore surfaces  
**Eagle Park Acres:** excavate case material; disposal in RCRA landfill; restore surfaces  
**Area 1 Unpaved Surfaces:** excavate and restore; disposal in RCRA landfill  
**Areas 2-8 Residential Surfaces:** excavate and restore; disposal in non-RCRA landfill  
**Monitoring:** air and ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells; contingency plans

#### **Alternative H:**

**Taracorp Pile:** multimedia cap; institutional controls  
**Taracorp Drums:** off-site recovery at secondary lead smelter  
**SLLR Piles:** excavate and consolidate with Taracorp pile

Venice Alleys: excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
Eagle Park Acres: excavate case material and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
Area 1 Unpaved Surfaces: excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
Areas 2-8 Residential Surfaces: excavate soil and consolidate with Taracorp pile; restore surfaces  
Monitoring: air and ground-water monitoring; additional deep wells; contingency plans

U.S. EPA proposes Alternative H as the remedy for contamination at the site. U.S. EPA believes this alternative will protect human health and the environment, will comply with all applicable state and federal regulations, reduce contaminant movement, and will be cost-effective.

The feasibility study, proposed plan, and other site-related documents are available for review at the Granite City Public Library, 2001 Delmar Avenue, Granite City, IL 62040.

Before making a final decision, U.S. EPA will consider oral and written comments on the cleanup alternatives and proposed plan from January 10 to February 24, 1990. Oral comments on the proposed plan may be submitted at the following public meeting:

Thursday, February 8, 1990 - 7:00 p.m.  
Township Hall  
2060 Delmar Ave.  
Granite City, IL

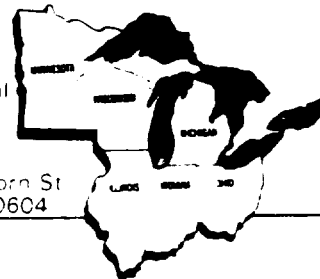
Written comments must be postmarked by February 24, 1990, and sent to MaryAnn Croce LaFaire, Office of Public Affairs (5PA-14), U.S. EPA Region 5, 230 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604.



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# EPA Environmental NEWS RELEASE

United States  
Environmental  
Protection  
Agency  
Region V  
230 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60604



Technical Contact: Brad Bradley  
(312) 886-4742

Media Contact: MaryAnn Croce LaFaire  
(312) 886-1728

For Immediate Release: January 10, 1990

No. 90-SF03

U.S. EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON NL INDUSTRIES-TARACORP SITE; PUBLIC MEETING FEB. 8

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 is announcing today the start of a 45-day public comment period for the NL Industries-Taracorp Lead Smelter Superfund site, Granite City, IL.

U.S. EPA has identified on and near the site several contaminated areas that could expose the community to lead through direct contact or inhalation of contaminated dust. These areas include:

- A pile on the Taracorp site used to store lead processing operations waste;
- Contaminated residential soils near the site, covering an estimated 50 city blocks;
- A waste pile of battery-case materials adjacent to the site;
- An estimated 30 drums on the site that contain lead wastes; and
- Two areas in Venice Township alleys and Eagle Park Acres, where battery-case materials were used for ground and alley fill.

- more -

Of the alternatives examined by U.S. EPA, the following summarizes the main points of EPA's preferred alternative:

- Taracorp pile -- install a multimedia cap and fence the site, also using other access controls;
- Taracorp drums -- take to an off-site lead smelter for lead recovery;
- St. Louis Lead Recyclers pile -- excavate and consolidate with Taracorp pile;
- Venice alleys and Eagle Park Acres fill areas -- excavate case materials and consolidate with Taracorp pile, restore surface;
- Excavate adjacent industrial and residential surfaces and consolidate with Taracorp pile, restore surfaces; and
- Continue air and ground-water monitoring throughout the project.

U.S. EPA has listed the cleanup alternatives and its preferred alternative in a document called the proposed plan. This and other site-related documents can be found at the Granite City Public Library, 2001 Delmar Ave. Granite City, IL.

Before making a final decision, U.S. EPA will accept and consider oral and written comments on the alternatives. Oral comments may be presented at a public meeting on February 8, 1990, at 7 p.m., Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Ave., Granite City. Written comments must be postmarked by February 24, 1990, and sent to MaryAnn Croce LaFaire, Office of Public Affairs (5PA-14), U.S. EPA Region 5, 230 South Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604.

# # #





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

January 4, 1990

NOTE TO OFFICIALS:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been investigating the NL Taracorp, Granite City, Illinois superfund site and is now examining alternatives for cleanup at the site.

We are starting a public comment period on January 10, 1990, and would like to meet with you on January 9 at 1 p.m. in the Granite City City Hall conference room to answer any questions you may have.

The public comment period is going to run 45 days and we plan to have a public meeting to accept comments on the alternatives February 8 at 7 p.m., in the Township Hall, 2060 Delman Ave. We also plan to have small group meetings with citizens the week of the 23rd.

Enclosed is a copy of the ad that will appear in the local paper on January 10 and in the Granite City newspaper, January 11, 1990, announcing the start of the comment period and listing the cleanup alternatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Bradley".

Brad Bradley  
Remedial Project Manager  
(312) 886-4742

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MaryAnn Croce LaFaire".

MaryAnn Croce LaFaire  
Community Relations Coordinator  
(312) 886-1728

Enclosure



**U.S. EPA Region 5**  
**230 South Dearborn Street**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60604**



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois Indiana  
Michigan Minnesota  
Ohio Wisconsin

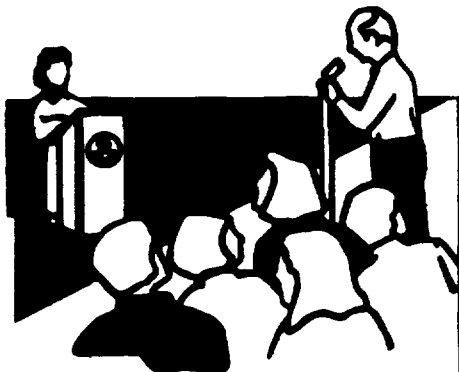
## U.S. EPA Proposes Cleanup Action NL/Taracorp Superfund Site

Granite City, Illinois

January 1990

### This fact sheet will explain ...

- U.S. EPA's proposed cleanup plan for the NL/Taracorp Superfund site
- Other cleanup choices considered by U.S. EPA
- How you can participate in choosing the final site cleanup plan



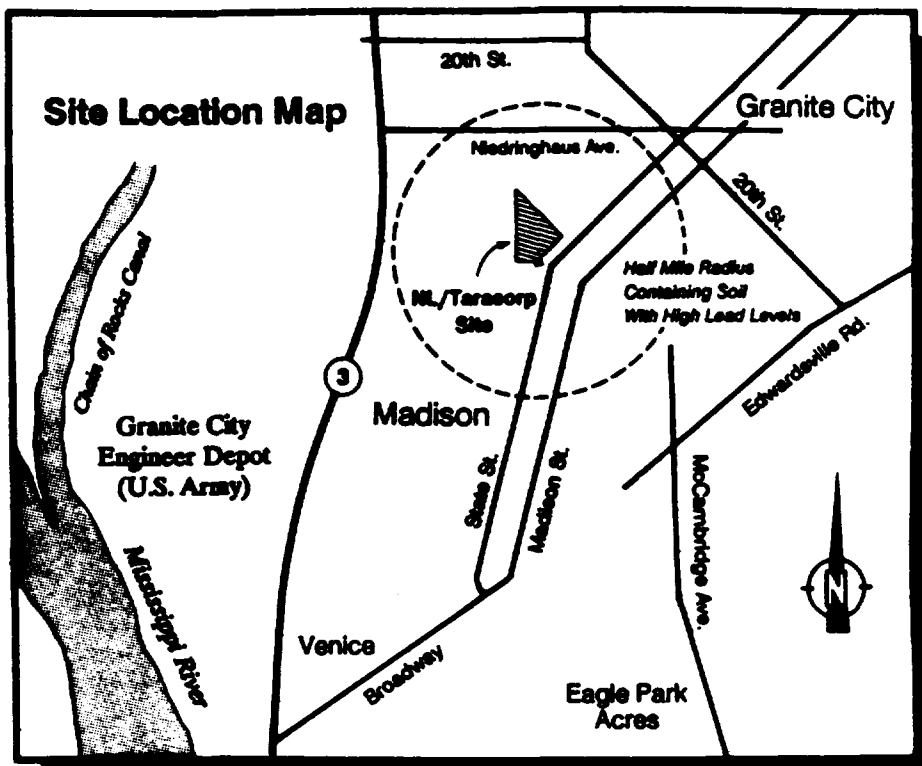
### Public Participation

U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting to explain the results of the cleanup study and to accept comments on the cleanup choices:

**DATE:** February 8, 1990

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Township Hall  
2000 Delmar Ave.  
Granite City, Illinois



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has proposed several actions to correct lead contamination problems at the NL/Taracorp Superfund site in Granite City, Illinois. These actions include taking away drums of lead materials from the site; properly disposing of lead contaminated materials and soils found at and near the site, including soils in some residential areas; and testing air and ground-water quality. These actions are summarized in a document called the Proposed Plan. The actions are described in more detail in the Feasibility Study Report (FS Report) and Addendum.

U.S. EPA's proposed plan for cleaning up the NL/Taracorp site is based on studying several cleanup choices. This study is called a feasibility study (FS). It

was done by NL Industries, a former owner of the site. NL Industries is believed to be among the parties responsible for the lead contamination found at and near the site. U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA (IEPA) supervised the study.

U.S. EPA wants your comments on the proposed plan and the feasibility study. A public comment period is being held from January 10 to February 24, 1990. During this time, you are encouraged to read the site documents and send written comments to U.S. EPA. In addition, you can give your comments to U.S. EPA during a public meeting on February 8, 1990. Site documents are available at the Granite City Public Library, 2001 Delmar Avenue, Granite City, Illinois.

## Site History

The NL/Taracorp Superfund site occupies almost 16 acres at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City. The site has been used for operations related to metal processing since 1903 when it was opened by Hoyt Metal. The company was sold and renamed United Lead. NL Industries bought United Lead in 1928 and operated the facility until 1979 when it was bought by Taracorp Inc. Taracorp makes metal products at the site.

IEPA began testing air quality for lead in 1978. Most (85 percent) of the air samples tested from Granite City between 1978 and 1981 had lead levels higher than levels the federal government considers safe.

IEPA investigated the Taracorp plant in 1982 and found that site operations were causing the area's lead problems. After this, IEPA denied Taracorp's application to continue making lead products at the plant. Taracorp Inc. filed for bankruptcy in December 1982. In 1986, U.S. EPA included the NL/Taracorp site on its list of sites that have serious hazardous waste problems. The list is called the Superfund National Priorities List. Sites on this list are studied and cleaned up by U.S. EPA or companies responsible for the waste problems.

In 1985, NL Industries signed a legal agreement to study the hazardous waste problems at and near the site, and look at ways to correct the problems. The study, called a remedial investigation

and feasibility study (RI/FS), began in January 1987 and ended in November 1988.

The investigation found that possible health risks from the NL/Taracorp site mostly come from direct contact with contaminated soils and materials, and from breathing contaminated dust.

***A federal health agency recommends that "In general, lead in soil and dust appears to be responsible for higher blood lead levels in children when the concentration in soil or dust is at levels higher than 500 to 1,000 ppm." U.S. EPA uses this recommendation to evaluate the health risks from lead.***

Touching or holding soil contaminated with lead is an example of direct contact. You can breathe contaminated dust if it is blowing around on a windy day.

The study found several areas at and near the NL/Taracorp site where lead contamination may be a health threat to the community. These areas include:

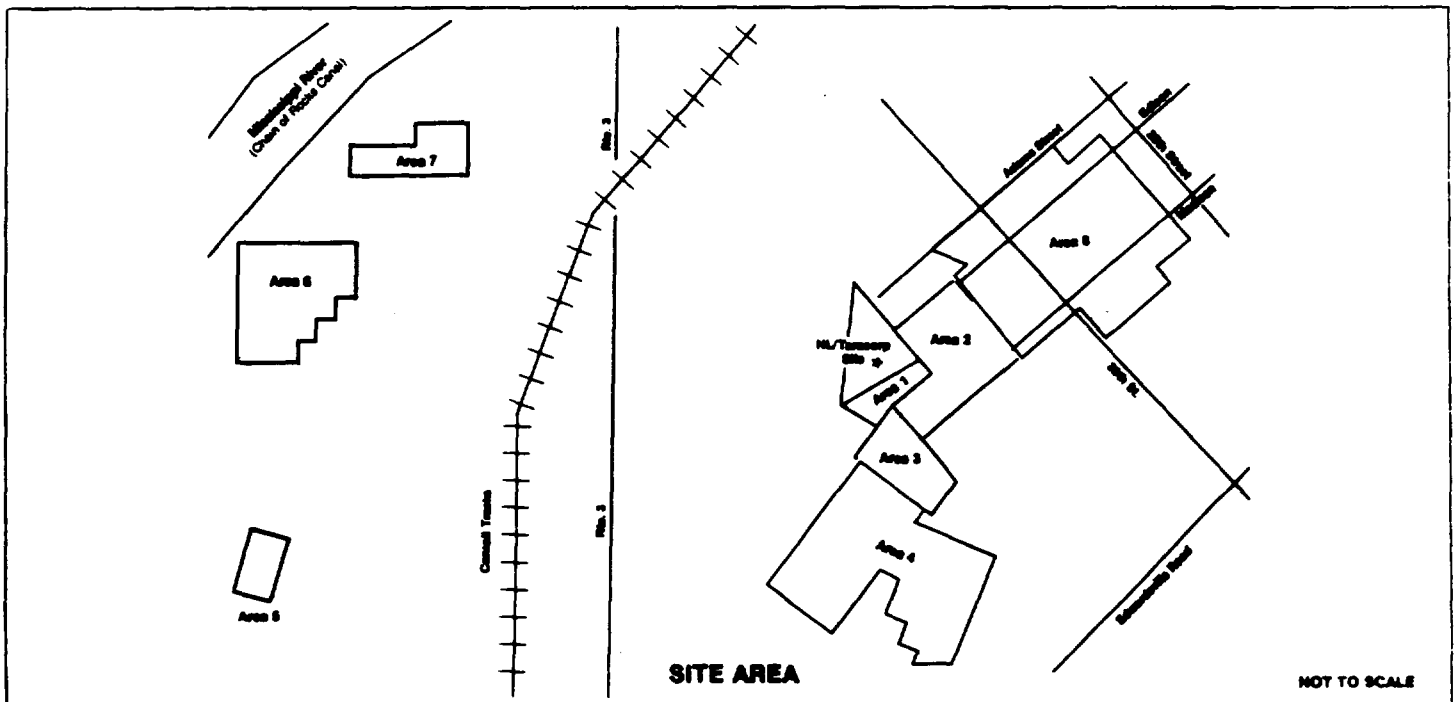
**The Taracorp Pile:** A large waste pile located on the NL/Taracorp site filled with lead wastes. About 25 to 35 drums containing lead wastes were found on the surface of the waste pile. The NL/Taracorp site is shown on the map below.

**Area 1:** This area is located next to the NL/Taracorp site. The property contains unpaved areas and a waste pile used by a company called St. Louis Lead Recyclers (SLLR pile). The SLLR pile contains materials from battery cases. The unpaved areas are contaminated with high lead levels. This area is shown near the NL/Taracorp site on the map below.

**Residential areas (Areas 2 through 8):** These are areas near the site that are mostly residential. Soils tested from these areas contained lead levels that could be a health threat to the community. The areas closest to the site have the highest levels of lead contamination. These areas are shown on the map below as Areas 2 through 8.

**Eagle Park Acres:** This area includes some residential land near the site. Battery case materials containing lead were used to fill a ditch on the property. The area was later dug up. This exposed the contaminated battery case materials. Lead levels are different throughout the area, from 63 to 3,280 parts per million (ppm). A part per million is a unit used to measure the concentration of a substance or chemical, like lead. One part per million, or ppm, would be equal to one second in eleven days.

**Venice Township Alleys:** Battery case materials were allegedly used to pave and/or fill some alleys in Venice Township. Tests done on the alleys showed a wide range of lead contamination, from 220 ppm to 126,000 ppm.



## Feasibility Study

The feasibility study is the part of the study that looks at possible solutions for cleaning up Superfund sites. Each possible solution is weighed based on site conditions, how well it will work (effectiveness), and cost.

Some cleanup solutions, or alternatives, are dropped right away. However, that still leaves several alternatives. U.S. EPA looks at the remaining alternatives closely, based on nine factors, or criteria. The cleanup action finally chosen must satisfy all nine of these criteria. The nine criteria ask the following questions:

- **Will the cleanup alternative reduce the health threat from the site?**
- **Will the cleanup alternative comply with the law?**
- **How long will it protect the community?**
- **Does the cleanup alternative solve the contamination problems?**

- **How quickly will the problems be solved?**
- **Can the cleanup alternative be put into place easily?**
- **How much will it cost?**
- **What does the State of Illinois think?**
- **What does the community think?**

The nine criteria are explained in more detail on page 6. For the NL/Taracorp site, eight alternatives (Alternatives A through H) were looked at.

All alternatives include restricting access to the NL/Taracorp property (for example by placing a fence around the property), restricting the sale and use of the property, and testing air and ground water. At least four wells would be installed to help U.S. EPA test water quality in the lower part of an aquifer located underneath the site. An aquifer is a layer of rock, sand and gravel underneath the ground surface that is able to store water. When there

is enough good quality water in an aquifer, it can be used for drinking or other purposes. The water found in an aquifer is called ground water.

Based on the U.S. EPA's study, ground-water contamination does not appear to be a health or environmental threat. However, ground water in the lower portion of the aquifer was not tested during the study. The proposed testing will identify any ground-water contamination that may threaten public health or the environment in the future. If any problems are found, U.S. EPA will develop plans to correct them.

The cleanup alternatives listed are different in the way they suggest cleaning up the contamination. Six of the alternatives require removing and disposing of contaminated materials. These six alternatives are different in the way the materials would be disposed and in the amount of contaminated materials that would be disposed. The eight alternatives are shown on the next two pages.

## Get Involved!

U.S. EPA wants your input on the proposed cleanup alternative and the other cleanup choices discussed in the feasibility study. Comments given by residents and other interested parties are valuable in helping U.S. EPA select a final remedy for the site. Based on new information or public comment, U.S. EPA, along with IEPA, may change the preferred alternative or choose another alternative.

There are two ways for you to give your opinion during the public comment period:

1. You may send written comments to MaryAnn Croce LaFaire, U.S. EPA's Community Relations Coordinator for the NL/Taracorp site. Her address is:

U.S. EPA (SPA-14)  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

Comments must be postmarked by February 24, 1990.

2. You may tell your comments to U.S. EPA during the public meeting on February 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Avenue, Granite City, Illinois. A court reporter will be present to record comments for the written record.

After the public comment period is over, U.S. EPA will review and consider the submitted comments when making a final decision for the site. The final actions chosen for the site may, therefore, be different than the preferred alternatives in the Proposed Plan.

U.S. EPA will respond to all comments in a document called a responsiveness summary. The responsiveness summary will be attached to the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site which will be made available to the public. You are encouraged to review the Proposed Plan, Feasibility Study Report and addenda, and other documents related to the site. All documents are available at the Granite City Public Library, 2001 Delmar Avenue.

If you have any questions about the NL/Taracorp site comment period, please contact MaryAnn Croce LaFaire at U.S. EPA's toll-free number: 1-800-572-2515.

# SUMMARY OF CLEA

## Alternative A: No Action

- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground-water quality
- Restrict site access and use

The Superfund program requires that a "no action" alternative be considered at every site. The no action cleanup alternative is compared to the other alternatives. This alternative calls for only testing and site restrictions. This alternative would not protect human health and the environment.

*Total Cost: \$475,110*  
*Implementation Time: 6-12 months*

## Alternative B

- Take the drums of lead waste away from the Taracorp pile to recover lead materials that can be recycled
- Dig up wastes from the SLLR pile and place with Taracorp pile
- Cover Taracorp pile with a multilayered cap
- Cover dug-up surfaces in Venice alleys with asphalt or sod
- Place a clay cap over battery case material in Eagle Park Acres; plant grass on cap
- Cover dug-up surfaces in the three areas closest to the site (Areas 1, 2, 3) with asphalt or sod
- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground-water quality
- Restrict site access and use

In this alternative, no action would be taken in five of the residential areas (Areas 4 through 8). Because action would not be taken in all of the areas, U.S. EPA feels that this alternative would not adequately protect human health.

*Total Cost: \$5,685,020*  
*Implementation Time: 1-2 years*

Alternative C was nearly identical to Alternative D, and was, therefore, excluded from detailed evaluation.

## Alternative D

- Take the drums of lead waste away from the Taracorp pile to recover lead materials that can be recycled
- Dig up SLLR pile and place with Taracorp pile
- Dig up battery case material from Venice alleys and Eagle Park Acres and place with Taracorp pile
- Dig up contaminated soils from the three areas closest to the NL/Taracorp site (Areas 1, 2 and 3) and place with Taracorp pile
- Cap Taracorp pile as in Alternative B
- Cover dug-up areas with sod or asphalt

- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground-water quality
- Restrict site access and use

This alternative would remove more contaminated materials than Alternative B. However, it would not address contaminated soils in five of the residential areas. Therefore, it would not protect human health as well as alternatives that do address these areas.

*Total Cost: \$8,835,450*  
*Implementation Time: 1-2 years*

## Alternative E

- Take the drums of lead waste away from the Taracorp pile to recover lead materials that can be recycled
- Construct a liner system next to the Taracorp pile that would not allow water to seep through
- Dig up wastes from the Taracorp and SLLR piles, Venice alleys, Eagle Park Acres, and place them in the liner system
- Dig up soils from the area next to the NL/Taracorp site (Area 1) with lead levels greater than 1000 ppm and soils in residential areas (Areas 2 through 8) with lead levels greater than 500 ppm, and place in the liner system
- Cap Taracorp pile as in Alternative B
- Cover dug-up areas with asphalt or sod
- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground water quality
- Restrict site access and use

This alternative involves installing a bottom liner system next to the Taracorp pile which would not let water through. The liner system would consist of clay, sand, and a synthetic fabric. The purpose of the liner system would be to prevent lead from moving through the waste pile and into the ground-water system below the site. Of all the alternatives looked at, this alternative would reduce contaminant movement the most. However, the amount of digging required could expose the community to contaminated dust. Dust control measures would be required.

*Total Cost: \$31,000,000*  
*Implementation Time: 3-4 years*

## Alternative F

- Take the drums of lead waste away from the Taracorp pile to recover lead materials that can be recycled
- Construct a liner system next to the Taracorp pile that would not allow water to seep through

# NUP ALTERNATIVES

- Dig up Taracorp pile and lead wastes to recover recyclable lead and battery case materials
- Take the recyclable material away from the Taracorp pile to recover recyclable lead materials
- Dig up wastes from the SLLR pile, Venice alleys, and Eagle Park Acres, and place them in liner
- Dig up soils from area closest to the NL/Taracorp site (Area 1) with lead levels greater than 1000 ppm and soils in residential areas (Areas 2 through 8) with lead levels greater than 500 ppm, and place in the liner system
- Cover dug-up areas with asphalt or sod
- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground water quality
- Restrict site access and use

The waste materials from the Taracorp pile would be processed to recover plastic battery case material and usable lead. The recovered materials would be taken off site for recycling. Materials not sent off site for recycling would be placed in the liner. The amount of digging and handling of wastes would increase the potential exposure of workmen and the community to contaminated dust. Dust control measures would be required.

*Total Cost: \$45,000,000*  
*Implementation Time: 5-6 years*

## Alternative G

- Take the drums of lead waste away from the Taracorp pile to recover lead materials that can be recycled
- Dig up the Taracorp pile and process the wastes from the pile to recover recyclable lead and battery case materials
- Take recyclable material from the Taracorp pile off site for recovery
- Take the rest of the Taracorp pile wastes to an EPA-approved hazardous waste landfill
- Dig up battery case materials from the SLLR pile, Venice alleys and Eagle Park Acres; take to an EPA-approved hazardous waste landfill
- Dig up contaminated soils from one area next to the site (Area 1) and transport to an EPA-approved hazardous waste landfill
- Dig up contaminated soils from residential areas (Areas 2 through 8); take off site for disposal at an EPA-approved solid waste landfill
- Restore excavated areas with sod or asphalt
- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground-water quality
- Restrict site access and use

This is the most costly alternative considered for the site. This alternative would reduce the amount of wastes in the community more than the other alternatives by taking them off site. The handling and digging up of hazardous waste could pose a short-term threat to on-site workers, the community, and the environment. Dust control measures would be required.

*Total Cost: \$67,000,000*  
*Implementation Time: 5-6 years*

## U.S. EPA's Preferred Alternative (Alternative H)

U.S. EPA believes that the human health and environmental risks from the site are best addressed by this alternative. This alternative, called Alternative H, would prevent any more contact with contaminated soils and dust. If this alternative is used to clean up the NL/Taracorp site, the following things would be done:

- Take the drums of lead waste away from the Taracorp pile to recover lead materials that can be recycled
- Dig up wastes from the SLLR pile, Venice alleys, and Eagle Park Acres, and place the wastes with the Taracorp pile
- Dig up soils from Area 1 with lead levels greater than 1000 ppm and soils in the residential areas (Areas 2 through 8) with lead levels greater than 500 ppm, and place the soils with the Taracorp pile
- Cover the dug-up areas with sod or asphalt
- Place a multilayered hazardous waste cap on the consolidated Taracorp pile
- Install wells to test ground-water quality
- Test air and ground-water quality
- Restrict site access and use

U.S. EPA believes that this alternative would protect human health and the environment, comply with all pertinent laws and regulations, would be a long-term solution, reduce the movement of lead in the environment, and would be cost effective. The amount of digging required could expose the community to contaminated dust. Dust control measures would be required.

*Total Cost: \$25,000,000*  
*Implementation Time: 1.5 to 2.5 years*

## The Next Step

U.S. EPA will consider public comments received during the public comment period before choosing a final remedy for the site. The final remedy will be described in what is called a Record of Decision (ROD).

After a final cleanup solution is chosen U.S. EPA will meet with NL Industries and other companies involved to ask them to plan and pay for the actual site cleanup. Following negotiations, the final remedy will be designed and implemented.

## HOW U.S. EPA CHOOSES A CLEANUP SOLUTION

U.S. EPA uses nine factors, or criteria, to evaluate possible cleanup solutions for Superfund sites. The solution chosen to clean up the site must meet all nine criteria. The nine criteria are presented below as a series of questions.

**Will it reduce the threat posed by the site?**

**(Protectiveness)**

U.S. EPA evaluates potential cleanup solutions to determine if they protect public health and the environment from the threat posed by the site. The remedy finally chosen must reduce, eliminate, or control any health or environmental threat. The threat posed by the NL/Taracorp site is through direct contact with contaminated materials or breathing of contaminated dust. U.S. EPA's preferred alternative eliminates the threat by digging up the contaminated materials and covering them with an EPA-approved hazardous waste cap.

**Does the method comply with related environmental laws and regulations?**

U.S. EPA evaluates the cleanup options to make sure they meet related federal, state, and local regulations.

**How long will the cleanup action effectively protect the community?**  
**(Long-term effectiveness)**

U.S. EPA considers how permanently a potential cleanup action addresses health and environmental threats. The action finally chosen must be either permanent or reliable for many years after it has been put into place. U.S. EPA's preferred alternative for the NL/Taracorp site would provide good long-term effectiveness against direct contact with waste materials and breathing of contaminated dust.

**How well does the cleanup action solve the contamination problem?**

U.S. EPA evaluates how effectively a potential remedy addresses the contamination problem. The cleanup action chosen must decrease the toxicity, movement, or amount of hazardous materials present. U.S. EPA's preferred alternative for the NL/Taracorp site would slightly reduce the amount of hazardous materials present because the drums of lead processing wastes would be removed and recycled off site. Digging up and covering the wastes with a hazardous waste cap would reduce the movement of the hazardous materials into the environment.

**How quickly will the threat be eliminated and how will the cleanup affect the community? (Short-term effectiveness)**

Cleanup technologies often take several years to put in place. During those years, the health or environmental threat may still exist. In addition, some cleanup activities may themselves create short-term health or environmental risks. U.S. EPA evaluates the length of time required to put the remedy into place, and the possible effect on the community. U.S. EPA's preferred alternative would take from 1½ to 2½ years to put in place. This is longer than for less protective alternatives, but much shorter than for some other alternatives. The digging activities could create a dust problem and potentially expose the community to contaminated dust. Therefore, dust control measures, such as wetting down the dust, would be used.

**Can the remedy be carried out? (This is called implementability)**

U.S. EPA looks at the potential cleanup remedies to determine if the needed materials and services are readily available. If not, the remedy may not be practical for the site. U.S. EPA's preferred alternative for the NL/Taracorp site would use standard techniques and could be easily implemented.

**How much will it cost?**

U.S. EPA considers the costs associated with each potential remedy. Both short and long-term costs are calculated. The cost of U.S. EPA's preferred alternative would be higher than three alternatives and lower than three alternatives.

**What does the State of Illinois think about U.S. EPA's choice? (State acceptance)**

Before making a final decision, U.S. EPA asks the State to comment on the Proposed Plan. Frequently, the state is involved from the start in the environmental studies leading to U.S. EPA's choice. In Illinois, the state agency is IEPA. IEPA supports U.S. EPA's preferred alternative.

**How does the community view U.S. EPA's choice? (Community Acceptance)**

After evaluating the possible cleanup methods, U.S. EPA presents its choice, called the Proposed Plan. After the plan is released, community members may give written or oral comments to U.S. EPA during a formal public comment period. Before making a final decision, U.S. EPA must consider all public comments and respond to them. U.S. EPA believes that the community's comments are important and often bring up issues which have an impact on the cleanup remedy finally selected. Community acceptance of the preferred alternative will be evaluated after the public comment period.

### MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail or your name was not on it, you are not on our mailing list. If you wish to be placed on the NL/Taracorp mailing list, please fill out this form and send it to:

MaryAnn Croce LaFaire (SPA-14)  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_





## TO CONTACT U.S. EPA OFFICIALS ...

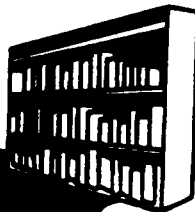
If you would like to speak to a U.S. EPA official about this fact sheet or anything related to the NL/Taracorp site, please contact:

**MaryAnn Croce LaFaire**  
Community Relations  
Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs  
(312) 886-1728

**Brad Bradley**  
Remedial Project  
Manager  
Office of Superfund  
(312) 886-4742

**U.S. EPA Region 5**  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER:**  
**1-800-572-2515**  
**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Central Time**



## WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS

Information about the site and the Superfund program is available in an information repository located at the Granite City Public Library. The remedial investigation and feasibility study reports and addenda, NL/Taracorp site fact sheets, and Proposed Plan are among the documents available for review in the repository. You are encouraged to read these materials for more information about the activities described in this fact sheet.

For more information contact:

**Robert Stack**  
Granite City Public Library  
2001 Delmar Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040



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MaryAnn Croce LaFaire (SPA-14)  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

November 6, 1989

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

Dear Resident:

It has come to my attention that the September 1989 fact sheet concerning the NL/Taracorp Superfund site contained three typographical errors. On page 3, under the heading "Standards and Guidelines for Lead," the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for lead should have read  $1.5 \text{ ug/m}^3$ . Under that same heading, the proposed U.S. EPA standard for drinking water should have read  $5 \text{ ug/l}$ . On page 4, in Figure 3: Eagle Park Acres Remote Fill Area Locations, the legend for the shaded area should have read "Lead Study Areas." These changes clarify the information presented in the fact sheet.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (312) 886-4742.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Bradley".

Brad Bradley  
Remedial Project Manager

**NL**

**RECEIVED**  
NOV 03 1988

REMEDIAL & ENFORCEMENT  
RESPONSE BRANCH

October 28, 1988

Mr. Steve Frederick  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Granite City, Illinois  
Remedial Investigation Report

Dear Mr. Frederick:

I am writing to bring your attention to a problem respecting the actions of your office in connection with the October 12, 1988 information session on the above-referenced report, and subsequent press releases. First, with respect to the information session, NL Industries, Inc., the company who is responsible for preparing the Remedial Investigation ("RI") report pursuant to U.S. EPA's administrative consent order, did not have official notice of the date of the information session or of the information to be presented at the session, specifically, the contents of the fact sheet.

With respect to the fact sheet, NL objects to the apparent emphasis placed on the 300 ppm level for lead-in-soil. The fact sheet, by proclaiming the 300 ppm level as a "Federal" agency standard, left the public and the media with the impression that it was the level favored by the U.S. EPA.

NL had never even reviewed the document ascribed to ATSDR in the fact sheet. Indeed, when NL asked its EPA contact for the ATSDR report, he had no copy of it. The RI report did refer to a 1985 CDC document discussing a 500-1000 ppm lead-in-soil level. Taking into account the CDC level, the risk assessment in the RI report nonetheless recommended a 1510 ppm level for lead-in-soil. This level was not even mentioned in the fact sheet.

JDS8:239

NL Industries, Inc.  
Office of General Counsel  
445 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022 Tel. (212) 421-7200/7204  
Telecopier (212) 421-7209

Mr. Steve Frederick  
October 28, 1988  
Page 2.

Thus, the fact sheet was not consistent with the RI report in three significant respects: (1) it made no reference to the RI's recommended level of 1510 ppm; (2) it did not mention the CDC report referenced in the RI report; and (3) it called attention to an ATSDR report not cited in the RI report.

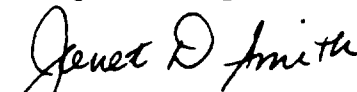
The difficulties inherent in these inconsistencies were compounded by NL's lack of notice of the information session and of the fact sheet. Lacking any advance notice of the information session and the contents of the fact sheet, NL was placed in the awkward and embarrassing position of having to field questions from television reporters and other journalists about what was perceived as a 300 ppm standard for lead-in-soil. This unfortunate situation could have been avoided by affording NL advance notice of the contents of the fact sheet and of the scheduling of the information session.

The problem of inadequate communication between EPA and NL continues. Recently, we received a newsclipping referencing a 500 to 1000 ppm level for lead-in-soil, and containing a diagram depicting an area surrounding the Granite City smelter as a "danger area." This article illustrates, we think, the potential misleading effect of the public dissemination of incomplete information.

Finally, you should be aware that the purpose of the risk assessment contained in the remedial investigation report is to investigate and establish level for lead-in-soil. There is no "standard."

In conclusion, we have heard that EPA is planning to mail to residents in the vicinity of the Granite City smelter an information sheet. In light of the history of confusing communications disseminated to these people, NL believes that it should be afforded the opportunity to comment on this and any future mailings.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Janet D. Smith

JDS:ml

c: Regional Administrator  
Roger Grimes, Esq.

JDS8:239

# Lead-Contaminated Soil Sparks An EPA Warning

By Robert Kelly  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

High levels of lead contamination in soil samples taken near a lead-waste pile in Granite City "could present a potential health risk," an official of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday.

The official, Brad W. Bradley, urged parents of children age 6 and younger not to allow their children to play in dirt within several blocks of the lead pile. Children that young may eat contaminated soil, he said.

He also urged residents of the area to wash fresh fruits and vegetables carefully before eating them.

But Bradley said he did not believe the risk was great enough to warrant immediate removal of the contamination under the EPA's Superfund program.

The Superfund provides federal money to clean up contaminated and hazardous waste sites.

The site to which Bradley referred to is a lead smelting plant at 15th and State streets in Granite City. The plant and a 200,000-ton lead-waste pile on the site are owned by Taracorp Inc., which bought the plant from NL Industries in 1979.

"If this (lead contamination) were considered an immediate threat to public health, under the law we would initiate immediate removal action," Bradley, an EPA environmental engineer, said at an informational meeting in Granite City.

He said the EPA did not believe immediate removal of the waste was needed, although lead concentrations of up to 4,150 parts per million have been found near the site. He said lead concentrations of 300 parts per mil-

lion and more could cause health problems.

But Bradley said the risk at the site in Granite City was only if young children ate the contaminated soil. No risk exists from just being near the soil or inhaling the air in the area, he said.

Granite City Alderman Ralph Astorian, whose 5th Ward includes the site of the lead pile, said he had faith in Bradley's comments.

"They're the experts, and all I can do is assure my people that EPA officials believe there is no immediate threat," Astorian said.

He was one of a few local residents who attended the meeting at which preliminary findings from an EPA study of the lead contamination were released. The findings showed the high levels of soil contamination but that airborne contamination was within national air-quality standards, Bradley said.

Bradley, who is with the EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago, is the agency's project manager for studying the lead contamination at the Taracorp plant.

The study to determine what should be done with the lead-waste pile is being financed by Taracorp and NL Industries in an agreement reached in 1985, with state and federal officials.

Bradley said he expected a final EPA report on the extent of the contamination by the end of this year and a final report on what to do about the contamination by early in 1990.

Options for handling the three-acre lead-waste pile include moving it, covering it or recycling it. Cleanup costs for the site have been estimated at more than \$20 million.

**"If this (lead contamination) were considered an immediate threat to public health, under the law we would initiate immediate removal action."**

BRAD W. BRADLEY, EPA environmental engineer

The contamination was first reported in an investigation by the Post-Dispatch in 1983. The newspaper reported that material from the lead-waste pile was used years ago as fill at house construction sites and driveways in Eagle Park Acres near Madison and to pave alleys in nearby Venice.

But blood tests of residents of the area showed no dangerous levels of lead, officials said.

Astorian repeatedly chastised Bradley to say if the risk to area residents was greater than that to children who eat contaminated soil.

"I need to know, because my phone's going to be ringing off the hook if there is," Astorian said.

Bradley assured Astorian that the EPA did not consider the risk to be a major one. He added that officials did not find the contamination to be any worse than they expected before they began taking soil samples in the area.

# **JACOBS**

## **TES IV**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
FOR  
NL/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE  
GRANITE CITY, IL  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUPPORT  
U.S. EPA REGION 5**



**JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC.  
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS DIVISION**

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH:  
TETRA TECH  
METCALF & EDDY  
ICAIR LIFE SYSTEMS  
KELLOGG CORPORATION  
GEO/RESOURCE CONSULTANTS  
BATTELLE PACIFIC NORTHWEST LABORATORIES  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATES**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
TECHNICAL ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT  
AT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES**

**TES IV  
CONTRACT NO. 68-01-7351  
WORK ASSIGNMENT NO. C05042**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
  
FOR  
NL/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE  
GRANITE CITY, IL  
  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUPPORT  
U.S. EPA REGION 5**

**JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC.  
PROJECT NO. 05-B964-00**

**JUNE 1989**



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GOALS AND ACTIVITIES	

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FIGURE 2: Site Map

FIGURE 3: Implementation Timeline

### **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A: Mailing List of Interested Parties

APPENDIX B: Locations for Information Repositories and Public Meetings

APPENDIX C: Glossary of Acronyms and Technical Terms

## **1.0**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This community relations plan identifies community concerns regarding the NL/Taracorp Superfund site in Granite City, Illinois. It also describes proposed community relations activities to be conducted during the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) at the site. Taracorp Inc., the current site owner, and NL Industries have been identified as the potentially responsible parties (PRPs), and will conduct the RI/FS under the supervision and guidelines of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). This plan has been prepared by U.S. EPA to provide a community relations program tailored to the particular needs of the community affected by the site.

The purpose of the community relations program is to enhance communication between the community of Granite City and U.S. EPA. Proposed community relations activities are designed to keep the public informed of the progress of site work and provide an opportunity for the community to participate in the Superfund remedial process. This plan will be revised as remedial activities at the site move toward completion and community concerns are reassessed.

Information presented in this document was obtained from U.S. EPA, the Illinois Department of Public Health, IEPA, and interviews conducted with local officials and residents in October 1988. Other sources of site information include federal, state and local government files, Bureau of Census, Chamber of Commerce, and information from various community-based organizations.

**This community relations plan consists of the following sections:**

- o A description and brief history of the site.**
- o A community profile, including a history of community involvement with the site.**
- o A discussion of major site-related issues and concerns summarized by topic.**
- o Objectives for the community relations program and activities specifically designed to carry out these goals.**

**Several appendices, including a mailing list of interested parties and organizations, a list of suggested locations for public meetings and information repositories, and a glossary of acronyms and technical terms are included in this document.**

### **1.1 The Superfund Process**

**In 1980, the United States Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, also called Superfund). CERCLA authorizes U.S. EPA to investigate and respond to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health and welfare, and the environment. The 1980 law also established a \$1.6 billion fund to pay for the investigation and cleanup of sites where parties responsible for the releases are unable or unwilling to address contamination problems. Congress amended and reauthorized the Superfund law as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in October 1986, increasing the size of the fund to about \$8.5 billion.**

**After it is initially discovered, a potential site is inspected, usually by a state agency. The state, U.S. EPA, or a U.S. EPA contractor then evaluates the site using a scoring system called the hazard ranking system (HRS), which takes into account:**

- o Possible health risks to the population;
- o Potential hazards (e.g., from direct contact, inhalation, fire, or explosion) created by the substances at the site;
- o Potential for the substances at the site to contaminate the air or drinking water supplies; and
- o Potential for the substances at the site to pollute or harm the environment.

If the HRS score indicates that potential site contamination problems are serious, the site is included on U.S. EPA National Priorities List (NPL), a national roster of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. Sites proposed for or placed on the NPL are eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Superfund program.

After a site is proposed for placement or placed on the NPL, a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) is planned and conducted. The remedial investigation (RI) identifies the type of contaminants present at and near the site, assesses the degree of contamination, and characterizes potential risks to the community and the environment. The feasibility study (FS) evaluates several alternative remedies for problems at the site. Upon completion of the FS, a 30-day public comment period is held, after which a specific long-term action, also called a remedial action, is chosen and designed. Once these planning activities are finished, the actual cleanup begins.

If one or more potentially responsible parties (PRPs) are found and agree to cooperate, the PRPs may then conduct the RI/FS under U.S. EPA supervision. If no PRP is found, or a PRP does not agree to conduct the RI/FS, the investigation is conducted by U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA may, through legal action, later recover costs from PRPs.

The time needed to complete each step in the remedial process is different for every site. In general, an RI/FS may take from one to two years to complete. Designing the long-term action may require as many as six months, if so indicated by the FS. The final long-term action typically requires an additional one to two years, although treatment of contaminated ground water, if needed, may take decades. If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment at any time during the remedial process, U.S. EPA will intervene with an emergency response action.

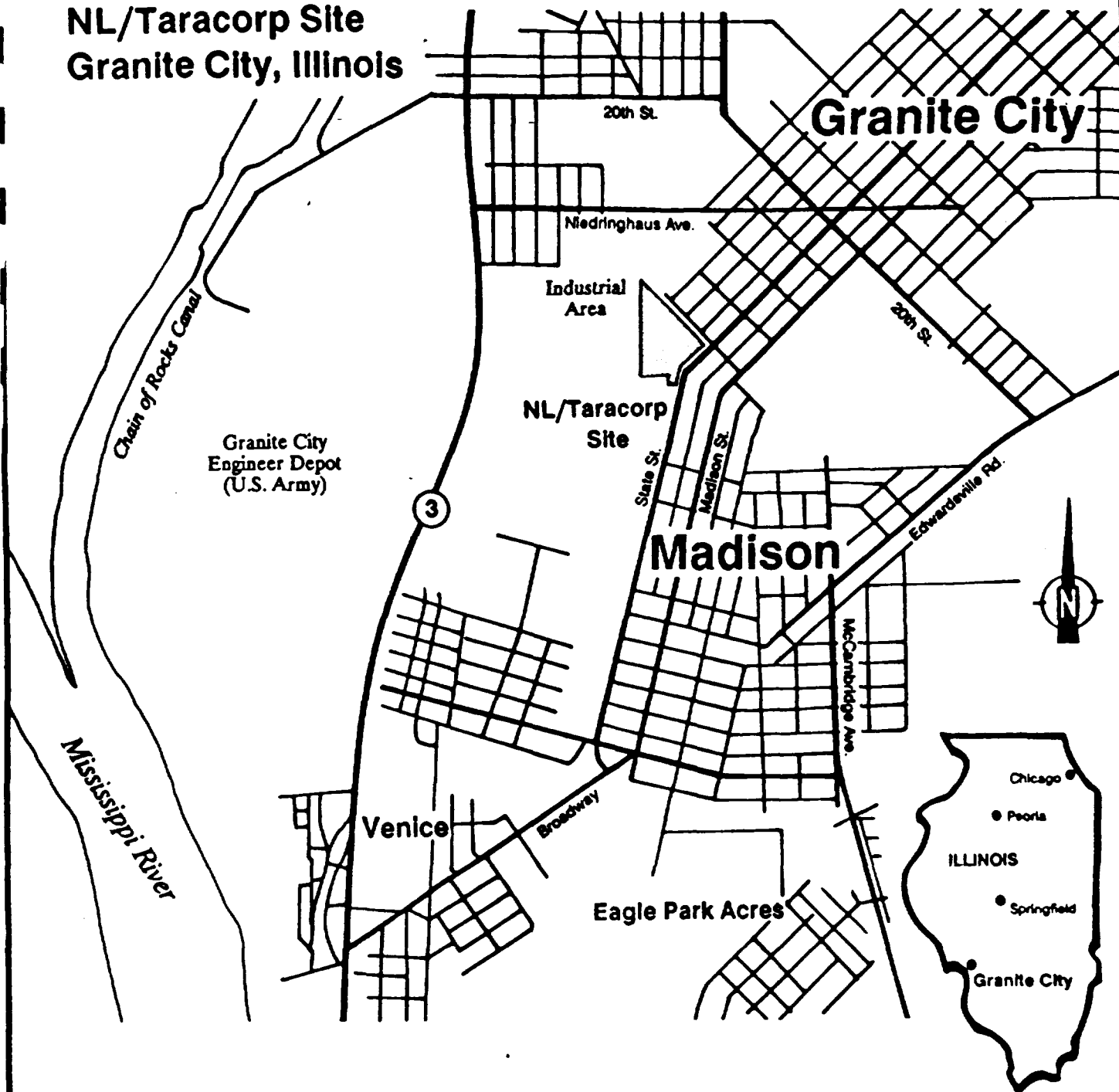
## **2.0 SITE BACKGROUND**

The NL/Taracorp site is located at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City, Illinois, six miles north of the St. Louis Gateway Arch (Figure 1). The site is a triangular 15.8-acre parcel which contains a 3 1/2-acre slag piles located along the southeastern border. A blast furnace, a refining area, and a metal fabrication operations facility are situated near the slag pile (Figure 2).

Granite City draws its drinking water from the Mississippi River. Chain of Rocks Canal, located approximately 1 1/4 miles west of the site, is the closest body of surface water. The canal flows into the Mississippi River.

The NL/Taracorp has been active in metal refining, fabricating, and related activities since around the turn of the century. The facility, originally known as Hoyt Metal, became United Lead in 1903, and was purchased by NL Industries in 1928. NL operated the site until 1979 when Taracorp Inc., the current owner, purchased it.

**Figure 1**  
**Site Location Map**  
**NL/Taracorp Site**  
**Granite City, Illinois**

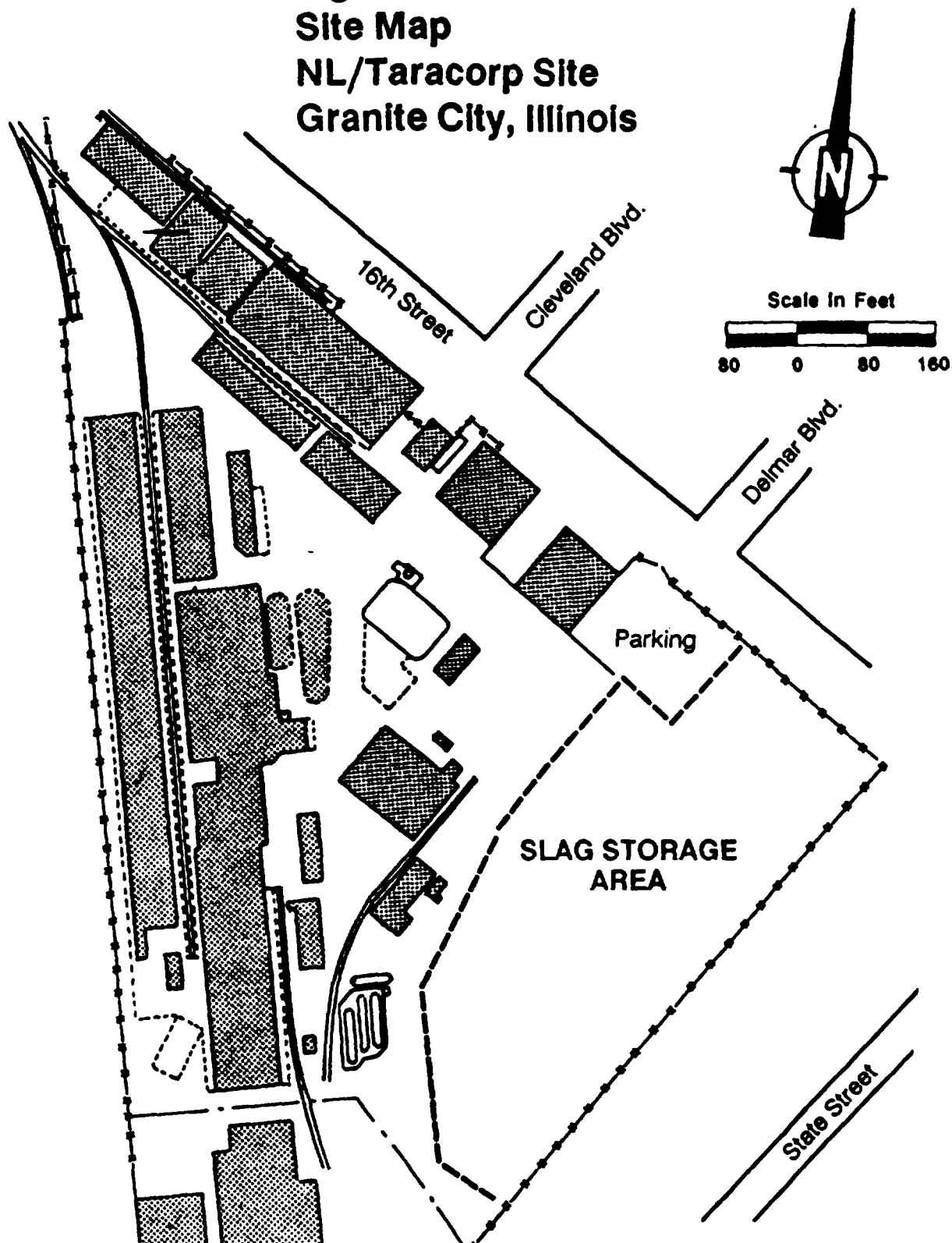


Prepared by Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.  
Environmental Systems Division, Chicago, 12/2/88

Drawn  
Checked

DS  
DN

**Figure 2**  
**Site Map**  
**NL/Taracorp Site**  
**Granite City, Illinois**



Prepared by Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.  
 Environmental Systems Division, Chicago, 12/2/88

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 Checked

DS  
 DN

Taracorp Inc. presently operates a metal refining and fabricating facility in one part of the complex. In another section, St. Louis Lead Recyclers reclaimed lead, plastic and other materials from the slag pile from 1980 until 1983.

Prior to 1905 through 1983, the site was used for secondary lead smelting. The smelter was used in the reprocessing of lead-bearing scrap, used batteries, and telephone cable sheathing. Solid wastes generated from the manufacturing process were stored in the slag pile located on this property. Wastes included blast furnace slag, battery cases, dust, and drummed materials. The slag pile contains approximately 250,000 tons of solid waste. In addition, a separate 6,000 ton pile of hard rubber, contaminated with lead, is located on the property. Taracorp Inc. shut down the secondary lead smelter in 1983. Current production at the site is limited to lead alloying and fabricating use for manufacturing.

The IEPA began statewide monitoring of air quality for lead levels in mid-1978. From 1978 to late-1981, one or more of three Granite City air quality monitors recorded lead levels which exceeded the Federal standard. During this period, Granite City lead levels were declining. However, in July 1981, Granite City's air quality problems resulted in the designation of the Granite City area as a non-attainment site. Designation as a non-attainment site required the state to develop a plan to comply with U.S. EPA air quality standards for lead in Granite City. During the last three months of 1981, the air quality monitor at 15th and Madison in Granite City registered the highest recorded quarterly average lead level in Illinois.



IEPA began an investigation of the site in mid-1982. In the April 1983 report, IEPA disclosed that the Taracorp facility was the primary source of the lead contamination in the air and soil. IEPA also found that Granite City's drinking water did not contain any lead contamination. The results of IEPA's samples of ground water were inconclusive. Blood tests of area residents found lead levels comparable to those of residents in Illinois cities. Similar blood test results had been reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in 1976 and 1979.

The investigation determined that lead contaminated air and soil conditions exist at and near the site. This judgment led to IEPA's denying Taracorp Inc. permission to operate the secondary lead smelter at the site. IEPA also sought agreements with Taracorp Inc., St. Louis Lead Recyclers and surrounding businesses to limit lead-contaminated dust and water from leaving the site, and near-by properties which contain soil contaminated by lead. Further, IEPA recommended that children age six and younger be advised not to eat outdoors or play in dirt if they lived within a half mile of the Taracorp Inc. facility.

The Taracorp Inc. facility was proposed for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1982. Sites proposed for or listed on the NPL, a federal roster of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites, are eligible for cleanup under Superfund. Shortly after the site was placed on the NPL, Taracorp Inc. filed for bankruptcy.

NL Industries, the former site owner, and Taracorp Inc. entered into a legal agreement with the U.S. EPA and IEPA in March, 1985. The agreement, called a consent order, required NL Industries to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) of the site. The scope of the study includes the NL/Taracorp property and the surrounding air, water, and soil.

### **3.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE**

Granite City, Madison County, Illinois was incorporated on March 9, 1896. Granite City, with a 1986 population of about 35,500, is the largest community in a four-city area, which includes Madison, Venice, and Pontoon Beach.

Granite City is an industrial community, and its commitment to industry is reflected in the city's slogan - "We are the Industrial Magnet of the West." In fact, the name Granite City was chosen in 1896 to commemorate the principle product of the Granite City Steel Plant.

The Granite City Division of National Steel, with 3,500 employees, is the major employer in the area. Some residents estimate that up to half of the jobs in the city are dependant on the plant or related companies. One resident characterized the plant as the bread and butter of the town. Other major employers include A.O. Smith Corporation, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Nestle Food Corporation, and Nesco Steel Barrel Corporation.

Granite City is recovering from a number of major plant closings in that took place the 1970s and 1980s. Unemployment peaked in 1982 at approximately 20%. The loss of jobs was accompanied by a loss of over 4,500 residents from 1970 to 1986. Granite City is aggressively seeking residential real estate developments and commercial businesses to diversify its economy and revive its downtown.

Granite City has an elected mayor and a fourteen member city council. There are four Granite City representatives on the twenty-nine member Madison County Board. Residents describe the city as highly political.

There is a residential neighborhood north of the NL/Taracorp site. This area is composed of seniors, low income households, and renters who are unlikely to attend meetings or become involved in civic issues. However, participation by civic political and business leaders in meetings concerning the site is likely.

#### Media

Town residents read the Granite City Record Journal and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. The Record Journal is distributed on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. St. Louis, Missouri dominates radio and television in the area. Six television and four major radio stations are received in Granite City.

#### Community Involvement with the Site

The slag pile has been present in the community for so many years, and residents have had access to it for so long, that many find it difficult to view the slag pile as a potential health hazard. Residents spoke of playing on the slag pile, using battery casings for alley fill, or of knowing someone who lived near or worked at the site. Many residents stated no one has become ill because of the site, although

it has been there for over 80 years. One said that if the site is a hazard, U.S. EPA should clean it up, but to residents of Granite City it was just another of the city's many slag piles.

Interest in the site peaked in 1983 when the IEPA released an investigation of air, soil and ground-water contamination attributed to the site and the risk to public health posed by the contaminants. The release of the report received extensive coverage in the Granite City Record Journal and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. No community-based environmental organizations have been identified and existing civic and social groups have shown little interest in the site.

#### **4.0 ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

During the early stages of the remedial process, interest in the NL/Taracorp site has been low and primarily limited to city officials and civic and business leaders. Few residents interviewed by U.S. EPA knew that NL/Taracorp site was a Superfund site. Some believed that community interest would grow if a public health hazard is established, or if the RI/FS or cleanup is perceived to be harmful to the city's image or economic development efforts.

The following is a list of community concerns identified during interviews conducted October 12-13, 1988 in Granite City and surrounding communities.

##### Communications

Concern was expressed about the periodic nature of government activities at the site and communications with the community by state and federal agencies. One official summarized this feeling best when he said that it seems like every two years government officials arrive in Granite City to

make an announcement about the site and then they disappear. Local officials then must deal with the aftermath of each visit and the community remains in the dark for extended periods concerning progress.

#### Economic Development

Granite City has an economic development campaign underway. Plans include the construction of office and retail complexes, infrastructure improvements, and rehabilitation of storefronts. The focus of the city's efforts are on the downtown area, much of which is within a half mile of the NL/Taracorp site.

City officials and area business owners are concerned that publicity concerning the site may frighten away potential investors. Moreover, there is concern that the cleanup may increase the cost of construction and thereby limit the attractiveness of the downtown locations.

#### The City's Image

Granite City is an industrial community. Several residents mentioned that it is known as a "dirty" city, locally and statewide. They said that in reality Granite City is a nice community with good people. They feel that the Superfund process may unfairly reinforce the negative image of the city. They also are concerned that the site will become sensationalized, thereby creating anxiety within the community.

### **Knowledge About Soil Contamination**

Residents of the neighborhood adjoining the NL/Taracorp site expressed concern that they did not know about the lead contaminated soil problem. Most of those interviewed had moved into the neighborhood after 1983. Those who indicated that they were familiar with the problem lacked specific knowledge regarding the hazards and methods to limit exposure to lead contaminated soil.

### **The Solution May Be Worse Than the Problem**

Concern was expressed that cleanup of contaminated soil and the slag pile could lead to increased exposure of neighborhood residents to lead contaminated dust.

## **5.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

To prepare for the RI/FS, a set of community relations objectives and activities have been developed. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) requires U.S. EPA to undertake activities which encourage public participation and keep local residents and officials informed about remedial activities conducted at the site. To be most effective, a community relations program should be tailored to the level of community concern, the community's need for information, and the willingness to participate in the remedial process.

### **5.1 Community Relations Objectives**

The following objectives have developed as a guideline for the implementation of community relations activities:

**o Provide the community with information about the site and Superfund**

Granite City residents and local officials are interested in receiving periodic updates on the site activities and on the Superfund process. Illinois Department of Public Health officials have expressed an interest in notification of site activities which may increase public interest in blood tests for lead contamination. City officials and civic and business leaders are interested in information regarding the feasibility study and other information which may reflect on the city's image or economic development plans.

**o Inform residents in the neighborhoods affected by the site**

The residents around the site and near lead contaminated fill areas are generally unaware of the potential risk to children 6-years-old and younger posed by contaminated soil. A special effort should be made to inform residents regarding the potential risk, and measures which can be taken to limit it.

**o Inform the community about the remedial process**

The community is generally receptive to the presence of U.S. EPA in resolving problems at the NL/Taracorp site. However, the community is also very sensitive about potentially negative affects of the Superfund process on Granite City's image and economic development plans. Emphasis should be given to presenting the risks posed by the site within the perspective of other sites, and explaining the potential impact of the cleanup on Granite City.

**o Establish and maintain a communication link with area residents and officials**

The community interviews have established communication between area residents and local officials, and U.S. EPA. A contact person for the site has been designated by U.S. EPA. Access to a contact person reduces the frustration that may accompany trying to obtain information and communicate with the several agencies and organizations involved in the RI/FS.

**o Evaluate the effectiveness of community relations programming**

As the remedial process progresses, it will be worthwhile to evaluate the effectiveness of the community relations activities in communicating information to residents and encouraging citizen participation.

**5.2 Community Relations Activities**

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) requires certain community relations activities be conducted during the remedial process. During the remedial process at the NL/Taracorp site, Region 5 of U.S. EPA will undertake the following activities:

**Meet with Local Officials and Residents**

Local and county officials and residents have indicated that they want to be kept informed about significant activities at the NL/Taracorp site. U.S. EPA meetings with these officials and residents should be held at various key times throughout the remedial process, when requested by the interested parties.



### **Press Releases**

Prepared statements will be released to local newspapers, radio and television stations to announce the discovery of any significant findings at the site during the remedial investigation and feasibility study, and to notify the community of any public meetings or public comment periods. Additional press releases are advisable at the completion of the draft feasibility study report and prior to initiation of the cleanup action to encourage public awareness of the site. The press releases will be mailed to the media list in Appendix A.

### **Information Repository**

A repository is an information file or notebook which contains information about Superfund and a series of site-related documents, including consent orders, work plans, reports and copies of applicable laws. The establishment of an information repository provides for public access to site related information, which is required under SARA. One repository for the NL/Taracorp site has been established by U.S. EPA. The location is listed in Appendix B of this CRP.

### **Fact Sheets**

Fact sheets, developed to coincide with particular milestones during the remedial process, are intended to provide the community with detailed information about the site, written in non-technical language. A fact sheet will be prepared to explain the findings of the remedial investigations and feasibility study, and to outline each of the remedial alternatives being considered for cleanup of the NL/Taracorp site. A detailed description of the U.S. EPA recommended remedial alternative also will be provided in this

fact sheet. An additional fact sheet may be issued to describe the remedial design (RD) and remedial action (RA) phases to be implemented at the site.

#### **Update Reports**

A series of update reports will be issued by U.S. EPA whenever new or pertinent information is available for the NL/Taracorp site. The updates will be produced and distributed periodically during the Superfund process as deemed necessary by the U.S. EPA.

#### **Publish Notices**

Before adoption of any plan for remedial action is undertaken, SARA requires that a notice and brief synopsis of the proposed plan must be published in a major local newspaper of general circulation, such as the Granite City Record Journal. A notice which explains the final remedial action plan adopted by U.S. EPA will be published and the plan will be made available to the public before commencement of any remedial action. Notices or advertisements will also be published to announce all public meetings sponsored by U.S. EPA.

#### **Public Comment Period**

SARA requires that a minimum 21-day public comment period be held after completion of the feasibility study (FS) and selection of the remedial alternative by U.S. EPA. Region 5 generally provides a minimum 30-day comment period. The purpose of the comment period is to enable all interested parties, including local officials, residents, groups, and PRPs to provide input regarding the selected alternative and to participate in the final decision making process. The comment period will be announced by an

advertisement published in local newspapers. A press release announcing the comment period for NL/Taracorp will also be sent to local media. U.S. EPA will directly contact interested parties on the mailing list contained in Appendix A of this CRP. Community input during this period will be encouraged.

#### **Public Meetings**

SARA requires an opportunity for a public meeting during the public comment period. The public meeting provides an opportunity for U.S. EPA to directly address citizens' questions and comments, and to discuss the recommended remedial alternative(s). Public meetings or availability sessions also will be held at other times during the remedial process, such as at the start of the field work phase of the RI/FS, and at the conclusion of the remedial investigation. The U.S. EPA community relations coordinator and the U.S. EPA remedial project manager will conduct these meetings. The meeting time and place will be coordinated with local officials. Planning for public meetings should remain flexible to account for fluctuations in public interest.

#### **Public Meeting Transcript**

A verbatim transcript will be taken from the public meeting held during the public comment period on the U.S. EPA recommended alternative. U.S. EPA will place copies of this transcript in the information repository for the site.

**Responsiveness Summary**

All comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in a document called a responsiveness summary. This report is required by SARA as part of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is a formal document which details the process by which the final cleanup alternative was chosen.

**Revise Community Relations Plan**

After the ROD has been signed by U.S. EPA, the CRP will be revised to take into account changing concerns of the community. The revised CRP will update and verify the information contained in this plan, evaluate the community relations program to date, and develop community relations activities appropriate for the cleanup phase of the project.

**Program Evaluation**

At key milestones during the remedial process, U.S. EPA Region 5 will evaluate the effectiveness of the community relations program for the NL/Taracorp site. These milestones may include completion of the RI and after the comment period on the proposed plan. Surveys, questionnaires, or other evaluation tools will be designed to assess the effectiveness of public meetings, fact sheets and other activities in conveying information and encouraging citizen participation.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE FOR  
NL/TARACORP SITE  
GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS

	CONSENT ORDER	INITIATE RI	COMPLETE RI	INITIATE FS	COMPLETE FS/ROD	INITIATE RD/RA
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>						
Public Comment Period					X	
Published Notices	X				X	X
Public Meetings		X	X		X	
Public Meeting Transcript					X	
Responsiveness Summary					X X	
Information Respositories	X - - - - -			Ongoing - - - - -		-X
Community Relations Plan		X				X (Revise)
Communication with Local Officials and Residents		X - - - - -		As Needed - - - - -		-X
Update Reports		X - - - - -		As Needed - - - - -		X
Fact Sheets		X	X		X	X
Press Releases	X	X	X		X	X

RI/FS = Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
RD/RA = Remedial Design/Remedial Action  
ROD = Record of Decision

**APPENDIX A**  
**LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES**

**A. FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

The Honorable Paul Simon, Senator (D)

Washington, D.C. Office (202) 224-2152  
462 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

District Office (312) 353-4952  
230 South Dearborn, Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604

The Honorable Alan J. Dixon, Senator (D)

Washington, D.C. Office (202) 224-2854  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

District Office (312) 353-5420  
230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3996  
Chicago, IL 60604

The Honorable Jerry F. Costello, Representative (D)

Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5611  
2110 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

District Office  
629 Garden Blvd.  
Belleville, IL 62220

**B. STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

The Honorable James R. Thompson, Governor (R)

State Office (217) 782-6832  
State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706

Local Office (312) 917-2121  
State of Illinois Center  
Chicago, IL 60601

Senator Sam M. Vadalabene  
56th Legislative District (D)  
121B State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

(618) 656-1204

Representative Sam W. Wolf (D)  
111th House District  
1506 Johnson Road  
Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 877-2345

### C. LOCAL OFFICIALS

Evelyn Bowles  
County Clerk  
322 Thomas Terrace  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

(618) 692-6240

Dorothy Hummell  
Madison County Community Development  
130 Hillsboro  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

(618) 692-6200

Von Dee Cruse  
Mayor, Granite City  
2000 Edison Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 452-6214

Robert Stevens  
City Clerk, Granite City  
2000 Edison Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 452-6200

### Granite City Alderman

Granite City, IL 62040

WARD 1      Everett Morlen  
2666 E. 24th

Casmer Skubish  
2701 Lincoln Ave.

WARD 2      James Miller  
2608 Cleveland Blvd.

Fred Schuman, Jr.  
2609 Edison Ave.

WARD 3      Paul Fisk  
2523 E. 25th Street

Brett Hanke  
2145 Cleveland Blvd.

WARD 4      Sharon Perjak  
3228 Carlson Ave.

Dan Partney  
2207 Dewey Ave.

WARD 5      Ralph Astorian  
1716 Maple Street

Lloyd H. Bailey  
2897 Roosevelt Ave.

**Judy Whitaker**  
**3272 Kilarney**

**Jeff Worthen**  
**3318 Franklin Ave.**

### Madison County Board Members

**Morris W. Miles**  
**118 Kinder Lane**  
**Granite City, IL 62040**

(618) 931-0072

Frank Lamb  
1535 Cottage  
Granite City, IL 62040

**(618) 876-1436**

Nelson Hagnauer  
2708 Saratoga  
Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 692-6200

Herbert "Junior" Milton  
2319 Washington Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

**(618) 877-3649**

Frank Dutko  
1808 Fifth Street  
Madison, IL 62060

(618) 451-1715

Donald C. Rea  
4237 Marigold Drive  
Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 931-2577

Donald Garrett  
401 Second Street  
Madison, IL 62060

(618) 452-5579

Madison City Officials

**John N. Bellicoff**  
**Mayor**  
**1529 3rd Street**  
**Madison, IL 62060**

(618) 451-4838

William "Bill" Weidner, Clerk  
1611 3rd Street  
Madison, IL 62060

(618) 876-6268



Venice City Officials

(618) 817-2412

Tyrone Echols  
Mayor of Venice  
321 Weaver  
Madison, IL 62060

Charles Haynes  
Alderman, Ward 4  
1300 Klein Street, Apt. F603  
Venice, IL 62090

**D. FEDERAL OFFICIALS**

MaryAnne Croce  
Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. EPA  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 353-3207

Brad Bradley  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-4742

Roger Grimes  
Office of Regional Council  
U.S. EPA  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-6675

**E. STATE OFFICIALS**

Keri Luly  
Community Relations Coordinator  
IEPA  
2200 Churchill Road  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

(217) 785-5562

Ken Miller  
Project Manager  
Federal Sites Management  
IEPA  
2200 Churchill Road  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62974-9276

(217) 782-6760

## **F. CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER REPRESENTED GROUPS**

R.C. Bush (618) 876-6400  
Executive Vice President  
Chamber of Commerce  
1831 Delmar  
Granite City, IL 62040

Don Adams (618) 877-5400  
President, Rotary Club  
c/o Granite City Glass & Fence Co.  
1746 Edison Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62060

Bill Swanson (618) 451-3456  
General Manager  
Granite City Steel  
National Steel Corporation  
20th and State  
Granite City, IL 62060  
Attn: Ben Johannpeter

Richard Kearns (618) 452-2611  
President, Delivery Network  
1603 State Street  
Granite City, IL 62060

Downtown Neighborhood Restoration (618) 452-2611  
Society  
2158 Delmar Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

## **G. MEDIA**

### Newspapers

ALTON TELEGRAPH  
ATTN: Editorial  
111 E. Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002

AARP NEWS BULLETIN  
ATTN: Mr. Joe Dooley  
1909 K Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20049

BELLEVILLE NEWS DEMOCRAT  
ATTN: Gary Dotson  
P.O. Box 427  
Belleville, IL 62222

**COLLINGSVILLE HERALD**  
ATTN: Ms. Judy Taplin  
13 East Clay  
Collingsville, IL 62234

**EDWARDSVILLE INTELLIGENCER**  
117 N. Second Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

**GRANITE CITY RECORD-JOURNAL**  
ATTN: Mr. Jack Ventimiglia  
1817 Delmar  
Granite City, IL 62020

**HIGHLAND NEWS-LEADER**  
822 Broadway  
Highland, IL 62249

**LABOR TRIBUNE**  
505 South Ewing Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63103

**ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH**  
ATTN: Ms. Bertleson  
900 North Tucker Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63101

**TROY TIMES-TRIBUNE**  
ATTN: Mr. Marvin France  
201 East Market  
Troy, IL 62294

**EDWARDSVILLE JOURNAL**  
ATTN: Ms. Dorothy Klaustermeier  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

**Television Stations**

**KDNL-TV, Channel 30**  
ATTN: Otis Thomas  
1215 Cole Street  
St. Louis, MO 63106-3818

**KETC-TV, Channel 9**  
ATTN: Kathy Rothstein  
6996 Milbrook Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 62130-4433

**KMOV-TV, Channel 4**  
ATTN: Ellen Harris  
1 Memorial Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2425

KPLR-TV, Channel 11  
ATTN: Mark Muckensturn  
4935 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63101-1523

KSDK-TV, Channel 5  
ATTN: Rich Isome  
1000 Market Street  
St. Louis, MO 63101

KTVI-TV, Channel 2  
ATTN: Sue Kawalerski  
5915 Berthold  
St. Louis, MO 63110

Radio Stations

KSLH (FM)  
1517 Theresa Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
ATTN: Bob Winters

KSTL (AM)  
814 N. Third Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
ATTN: Bob Winters

KSTL (AM)  
814 N. Third Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
ATTN: David Dale

KTAD (FM)  
625 N. Euclid Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63106

KUSA (AM)  
10155 Corporate Square  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
ATTN: Robert Fox

KADI (FM)  
7530 Forsyth  
St. Louis, MO 63105

KATZ (AM)  
1139 Olive, Suite 303  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
ATTN: Tony Washington

KYKY (FM)  
111 S. Bemiston Clayton  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
ATTN: Ms. Framton

WEW (AM)  
1701 S. 8th Street  
MO 63105  
ATTN: Ms. Framton

WEW (AM)  
1701 S. 8th Street  
St. Louis, MO 63104

WIL (AM)  
300 N. Tucker Street  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
ATTN: Gene Hirsh

WJBM (AM)  
Box 114  
Jerseyville, IL 62052  
ATTN: Joyce Pavia

WKKX (FM)  
111 West Port Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63146

KEZK (FM)  
7711 Carondelet  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
ATTN: Steve Jankowski

## **APPENDIX B**

### **LOCATIONS OF INFORMATION REPOSITORY AND PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATION**

Robert Stack (618) 452-6214  
Granite City Public Library  
2001 Delmar Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

#### **PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS**

Granite City Hall (618) 452-6238  
Mayor's Conference Room  
2000 Edison Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

Capacity: 25  
Contact: Debra Sprankle

## **APPENDIX C**

### **List of Acronyms and Glossary Terms**

#### **ACRONYMS**

**CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980**

**CRP - Community Relations Plan**

**FS - Feasibility Study**

**HRS - Hazard Ranking System**

**NPL - National Priorities List**

**ppm/ppb - parts per million/parts per billion**

**PRP - Potentially Responsible Party**

**ROD - Record of Decision**

**RA - Remedial Action**

**RD - Remedial Design**

**RI - Remedial Investigation**

**RPM - Remedial Project Manager**

**SARA - Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986**

## **GLOSSARY**

**Community Relations Plan (CRP)** - The CRP outlines specific community relations activities that occur during the remedial response at a site. The CRP outlines how the U.S. EPA will keep the public informed of work at the site and the ways in which citizens can review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the site. This document is available in the U.S. EPA information repository (See Appendix B).

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** - A Federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The Act created a special tax that goes into a trust fund, commonly known as Superfund, to investigate and clean up hazardous waste sites. Under the program U.S. EPA can either

- o Pay for site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling to or unable to perform the work; or
- o Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to pay for or to perform the work.

**Consent Decree (CD)** - A legal document, approved and issued by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between U.S. EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) where PRPs will perform all or part of a Superfund site cleanup. The consent decree describes actions that PRPs are required to perform and is subject to public comment period.

**Hazard Ranking System (HRS)** - Used by U.S. EPA to decide whether a site should be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The score a site receives from the HRS compares the relative hazards for different sites, taking into account the impact the site has on ground water, surface water, and air, as well as the number of people potentially affected by the contamination. Sites receiving a score of 28.5 or greater are proposed for the NPL.

**Heavy Metals** - A group of metals, including lead, chromium, cadmium, and cobalt. These can be highly toxic at relatively low concentrations.

**National Priorities List (NPL)** - U.S. EPA's list of the top priority hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for federal cleanup money under Superfund.

**Public Comment Period** - A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and U.S. EPA proposes to add sites to the National Priorities List. Also, a minimum 30-day comment period is held to allow citizens to review and comment on a draft feasibility study.

**Remedial Action (RA)** - Response actions that stop or substantially reduce a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances that are serious but not an immediate threat to public health.

**Remedial Alternative** - A method or combination of methods designed to protect public health, welfare and the environment over the long term, from releases of hazardous substances at Superfund site. Remedial alternatives are usually activities or a combination of technologies that contain, remove, or destroy most of the contaminants in the air, water, soil and/or ground water at a Superfund site.

**Remedial Design (RD)** - A phase of the remedial action that follows the remedial investigation/feasibility study and includes the development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup.

**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** - A Remedial Investigation (RI) examines the nature and extent of contamination problems at a site. The Feasibility Study (FS) evaluates different remedial alternatives for site cleanup and recommends the most cost effective alternative.

**Slag** - Waste by-products which result from the smelting of metallic ore or objects containing metal.

**Superfund** - The commonly used term that describes the federal legislation authorizing U.S. EPA to investigate and respond to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances into the environment. Also known as CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act), Superfund was reauthorized as SARA - Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986.

**Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)** - Modifications to CERCLA enacted on October 17, 1986.





### This Fact Sheet Will Give You . . .

- The History of the NL/Taracorp site.
- The results of the NL/Taracorp pollution study.
- How the study was conducted.
- How to get more information.
- What the next step will be at the site.



### Information Repository

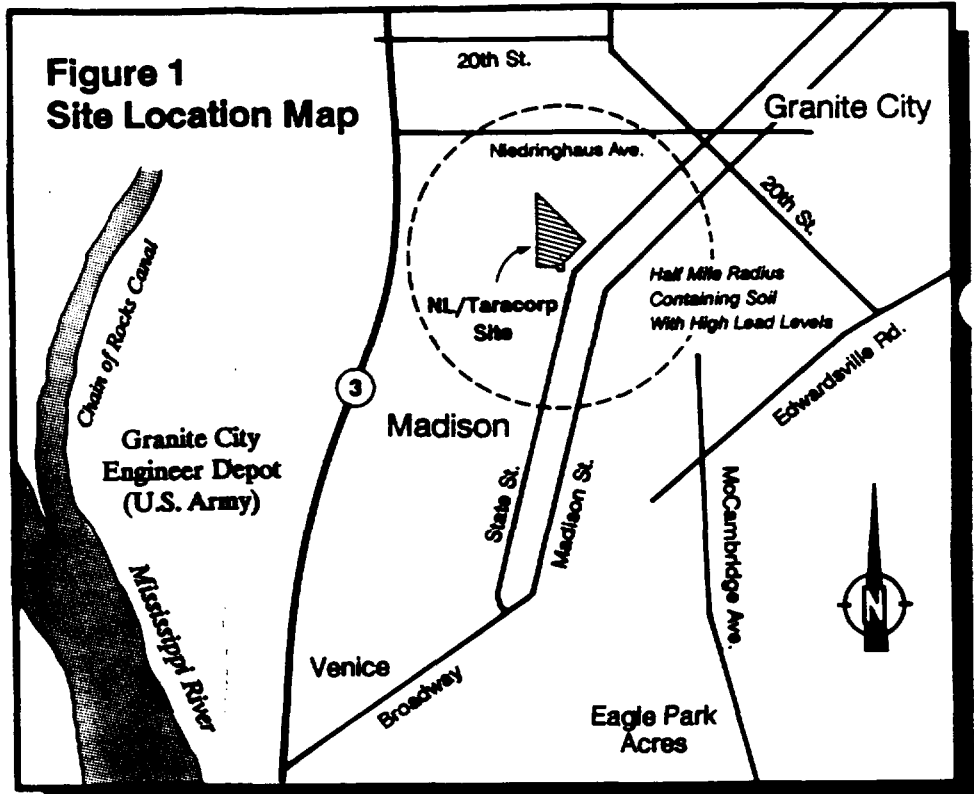
Information repositories contain laws, work plans, community relations plans, and other documents relevant to the investigation and cleanup of Superfund sites. Anyone who would like additional information about the NL/Taracorp Superfund site is encouraged to consult the various documents available at the information repository. For more information contact:

**Robert Stack**  
Granite City Public Library  
2001 Delmare Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040

# Lead Study Complete NL/Taracorp Superfund Site

Granite City, Illinois

September 1989



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently finalized a report on an extensive study of contamination, called a **remedial investigation (RI)**, at the NL/Taracorp Superfund site in Granite City, Illinois. The report specifically addresses the type and amount of **lead and heavy metal** pollution found at the NL/Taracorp site and in the surrounding areas. NL Industries, former owner of the site, conducted the RI from January 1987 to September 1988 under the supervision of U.S. EPA and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). (Words appearing in **bold** are defined in the glossary).

A **risk assessment** was conducted in conjunction with the RI to determine if the site may be endangering human health and the environment. The report concluded that there was no unacceptable health risk from lead or other pollutants found on site or in the surrounding areas.

U.S. EPA and IEPA, however, disagree with this conclusion. A number of cleanup options for the site are being considered in an additional investigation called a **feasibility study (FS)**.

## History of Pollution

The Taracorp site is located at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City, and occupies 15.8 acres, including a 3.5 acre slag storage area. Operations at the site have included metal refining, fabricating, and related activities since the turn of the century. The facility began operation as Hoyt Metal in 1903. It was later sold, and became United Lead. NL Industries purchased United Lead in 1928 and operated the facility until 1979 when it was purchased by Taracorp Inc. Taracorp Inc. currently operates a metal fabrication facility at the site.

Lead pollution in the area is believed to be partially a result of lead smelting conducted at the site from approximately 1905 until 1983. The smelter was used for purifying and reprocessing lead-containing scrap, used batteries and cable sheathing. Solid wastes generated from this process included blast furnace slag, battery cases, and dust from the smelter's smoke stack. These wastes were stored on-site in waste piles. The largest pile (Taracorp pile) contains approximately 250,000 tons of lead-containing solid wastes.

Another storage area of waste piles is located at the St. Louis Lead Recyclers (SLLR) which is directly south of and adjacent to the Taracorp Inc. property. The wastes at SLLR were a result of recycling the original waste piles. The largest of the SLLR piles (SLLR pile) contains 6000 tons of lead contaminated rubber. A third source of contamination attributed to the site is the remote fill areas of Venice and Eagle Park Acres where lead-containing battery case pieces were allegedly used for fill and alley paving material (Figure 2 and 3).

The IEPA began monitoring air quality for lead on a state-wide basis in mid-1978. Eighty-five percent of the air samples from three Granite City air quality monitors that were analyzed between 1978 and 1981 had lead levels exceeding federal standards. In July 1981, the State of Illinois was required by U.S. EPA to develop a plan to control and maintain federal air quality standards for lead in Granite City. An intensive investigation of the Taracorp Inc. facility by IEPA in mid-1982 found that Taracorp Inc. operations were the primary source of lead pollution detected in area air and soil. Following the

1982 investigation the State of Illinois denied an application for renewal of Taracorp's permit to operate the smelter. Taracorp Inc. filed for bankruptcy in December 1982, shortly after the site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL).

NL Industries, former owners of the facility, entered into a legal agreement with U.S. EPA and IEPA in March 1985. The agreement, called a **consent order**, requires the company to conduct an RI and FS. The RI included the Taracorp Inc. property, the waste piles at SLLR, the remote fill areas of Venice and Eagle Park Acres, and the surrounding air, water and soil.

## Pollution Investigation

The purpose of the remedial investigation was to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the NL/Taracorp Superfund site. The investigation also proposed a set of possible cleanup options to be examined during the feasibility study.

Field activities included sampling air, on-site and off-site surface soils, waste materials from the Taracorp pile and SLLR pile, surface water, and ground water. Two test pits were excavated in the Taracorp pile to provide information on the inner composition of the pile itself. All the samples collected were analyzed for the presence of heavy metals and other chemicals. The results of the sample analyses were used to help determine potential site cleanup options.

## Air

Air quality at and around the site appears to be within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In 1978, five air monitors were installed north and east of the site. The monitors were part of a plan by the IEPA to study the effect of the Taracorp Inc. site on area air quality. The data obtained from these monitors from 1978 to 1986 was used as part of the RI to determine how the site may be contributing to air-born lead pollution.

Since smelting operations were discontinued at Taracorp Inc., in 1983, and at SLLR in 1984, lead levels have been

well below the NAAQS. The remedial investigation also concluded that any lead emitted into the air from the waste piles or the Taracorp Inc. plant does not violate air quality standards.

## Surface Water/Sediments

The Chain of Rocks Canal, which is located more than one mile west of the site, is the nearest surface water body. There appears to be drainage from the Taracorp Inc. property directly to this canal.

Storm water drains in two directions on-site, either from the waste piles, or through the manufacturing area. Storm water appears to runoff the sides of the Taracorp and SLLR waste piles and



picks up lead particles on its way. Lead concentrations in the runoff samples from these piles ranged from 3 to 41 part per million (ppm). After the storm water combines with the lead, it tends to collect into puddles on the site. The lead-contaminated water from these puddles eventually evaporates into the air, or migrates into the ground where it has the potential to contaminate area ground water.

## What is a part per million (ppm)?

*In every day terms, one part per million would be equal to one second in 11 days, or one facial tissue in a stack of facial tissues higher than the Empire State building. Numerically, a part per million looks like 0.000001.*

Sediment samples were collected in the same locations as the storm-water runoff samples. Lead concentrations in the sediment ranged from 13,640 to 148,600 ppm. The investigation indicated that the movement of surface water is only limited to the Taracorp Inc., SLLR, and Tri-Cities Trucking (TCT) property.

On-site storm water also drains across the manufacturing area. This entire area is paved and therefore the storm water flows directly into the municipal sewer system. This water was not analyzed for pollutants as part of the study.

## Soil

Fifty two on-site and off-site samples were obtained during the soil investigation. These samples were analyzed twice for lead and once for heavy metals.

The off-site samples were

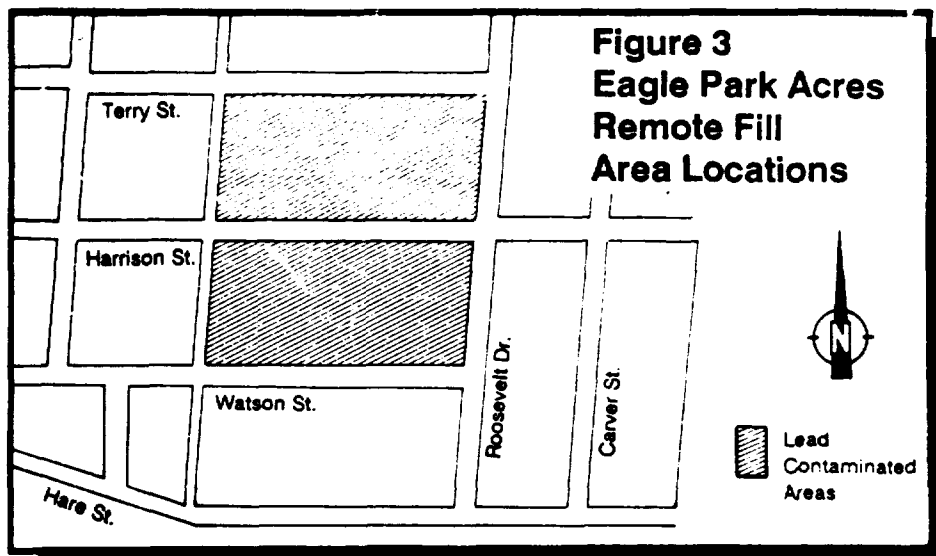
located within one-half mile of the site and in the alleyways of the remote fill areas. Soil samples were taken at various depths. The average lead concentration in off-site soil samples obtained from zero to three inches in depth was 1.374 ppm. From three to six inches in depth the average lead concentration was 1.058 ppm. One of the soil samples was further analyzed to determine if lead could possibly move through the soil and into the ground water from the waste piles. The results, based on that sample, indicated that lead was not likely to move into the surrounding environment.

A second test was conducted for lead in off-site soil. In soils from zero to three inches deep, the concentrations averaged 3.378 ppm. A health analysis for other heavy metals indicated that lead was the primary contaminant of concern at the site.

Two on-site samples were collected and analyzed for the presence of lead. The average lead concentration in soil samples obtained from zero to three inches in depth was 1.300 ppm and from three to six inches deep was 41,000 ppm.

Soil samples were collected from seven alley locations in nearby Venice. The lead concentration results from these samples ranged from 200 to 128,000 ppm. Additional sampling in Venice included analysis of pieces of paving materials and one soil sample. The lead concentration for the paving materials ranged from 125 to 7,010 ppm, and lead concentration for the soil sample was 766 ppm.

In Eagle Park Acres, eight soil samples were collected at four locations. The average lead concentration for the initial soil samples obtained from zero to three inches in depth was 1130 ppm, and from three to six inches deep was 1358 ppm. The amount of lead found in the soil at Eagle Park Acres during the second analysis of the samples collected, ranged from 19 to 2920 ppm.



**Figure 3**  
**Eagle Park Acres**  
**Remote Fill**  
**Area Locations**

## Risk Assessment

The final phase of the remedial investigation was an assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment which would be posed if no action were taken to clean up the site. Earlier phases of the study determined which pollutants are present, the levels at which they are present, and where they are located. Using this information, the risk assessment examined whether existing or future contact with the pollutants poses unacceptable health or environmental risks.

There are four potential pathways in which people can come in contact with the pollutants at the NL/Taracorp site: soil, air, ground water, and surface-water runoff. Surface water is not a threat because there is no surface water in close proximity to the site. Surface-water runoff appears only contained within the Taracorp Inc., SLLR, and TCT properties. As a result, the report does not consider runoff a risk to the general public or environment. Based on the level of contamination in on-site wells and the absence of information on ground-water and drinking-water wells usage, contact with ground water was also not considered a risk, according to the report.

The RI determined that the two ways that people were the most likely to come into contact with lead is by ingesting lead-contaminated soil from unwashed hands or food, and by breathing in dust that contains lead. Once these pathways were identified, the Risk Assessment report studied what

effect, if any, the lead would have on the public health. The report quotes the **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**, stating that "soil-lead concentrations in Granite City could cause an increase in blood-lead concentrations," yet concludes that the site does not represent an unacceptable risk to public health. This conclusion was partially based on a Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Blood Lead Survey conducted in 1982. The survey indicated that there was no unacceptable health risk posed by the site for the 97 area residents who volunteered to be tested for blood lead.

The U.S. EPA and IEPA disagree with the findings of the RI risk assessment and its conclusion of no unacceptable risk. They determined that the IDPH Blood Survey and the two other analytical methods used were flawed or inappropriately applied. Despite this disagreement U.S. EPA and IEPA have with the risk assessment, a FS is currently being conducted by NL Industries. The FS, which will be completed later this year, will study possible clean-up options.

Recommendations on the possible clean up of the site will be presented to U.S. EPA in the FS report.

## Waste Piles

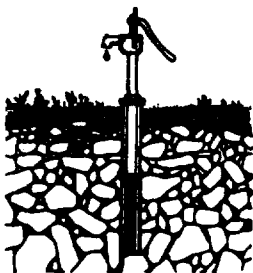
Two test pits excavated during the Taracorp investigation of the waste pile revealed a mixture of materials ranging in size from dust, to slag



particles weighing in excess of 1,000 pounds. Samples were obtained from blast-furnace slag, materials from the upper portion of the Taracorp pile, material from between 25 to 35 drums containing wastes from metal processing and dust from the smelter's air filter, and samples of material from the SLLR pile. Each sample was analyzed for the presence of several heavy metals. The blast-furnace slag and SLLR pile analyses showed both to be hazardous because of high lead concentrations. Materials from the upper portion of the main Taracorp pile and the drummed material were found to be hazardous because of high concentrations of lead and cadmium. A separate test revealed that lead and cadmium found in the main Taracorp pile could leach out of the pile and into the surrounding environment. The lead and cadmium concentrations are high enough that if they do move out of the waste pile they could be hazardous to human health and the environment.

## Ground Water

A total of twelve ground-water monitoring wells were installed on and around the site as part of the investigation. The wells were installed to determine if contamination present in area ground water could be attributed to contaminants from the Taracorp Inc. property. The wells were also installed to determine the direction of local ground-water flow and determine if pollution is moving within ground water.



The RI determined that the local ground water flows southwest towards the Mississippi River. The ground water was also found unsuitable for drinking because test wells indicated the water was

contaminated with dissolved solids, sulfates, and manganese. There are approximately 36 private ground-water wells located within two miles of the site, although the investigation did not determine whether they are currently in use. Granite City's municipal drinking water comes from the Mississippi River and does not appear to be affected by contaminated ground water.

The results of the investigation showed that two on-site wells have above normal levels of sulfates, dissolved solids, and the following heavy metals: arsenic, cadmium, manganese, nickel, and zinc. The heavy metals, however, do not appear to be moving off site. Lead concentrations from on and off-site wells were found to be generally less than 0.02 ppm. The investigation did not evaluate deep ground-water quality, and as a result did not determine if contamination was migrating off-site at a lower depth.

## STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR LEAD

### Soil

The ASTDR has set a guideline for Granite City of 500 to 1000 ppm. The U.S. EPA does not have a standard for lead in soil so it has adopted this guideline for the investigation.

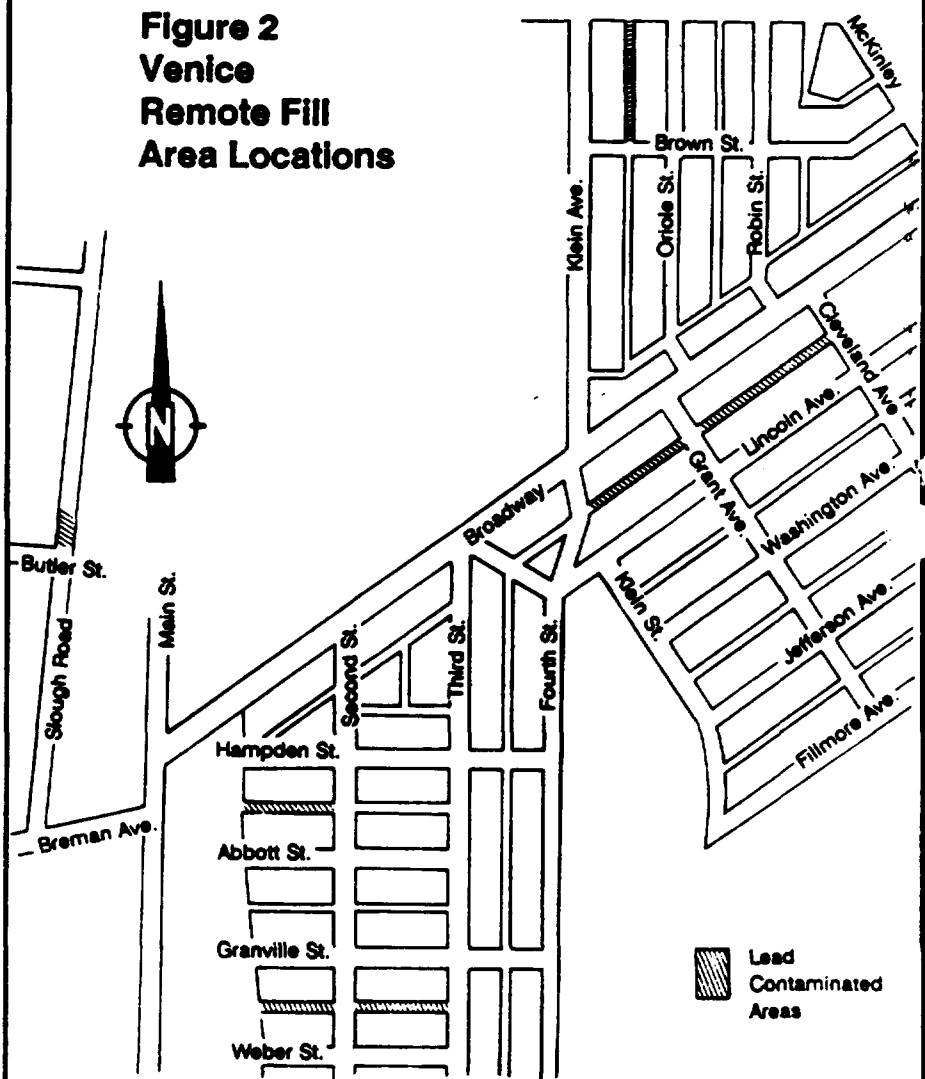
### Air

The National Ambient Air Quality Standard set by U.S. EPA is 0.156 ppm.

### Drinking Water

The proposed U.S. EPA standard for lead in drinking water is 5000 ppm.

**Figure 2**  
**Venice**  
**Remote Fill**  
**Area Locations**



## GLOSSARY

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)** - A branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services based in Atlanta, Georgia. It primarily conducts health assessments of Superfund sites in conjunction with state agencies.

**Consent Order** - A legal agreement between the U.S. EPA, the potentially responsible parties for a site and sometimes the State. Under a Consent Order, PRPs agree to perform investigations or other remedial activities at a particular hazardous waste site.

**Ground Water** - Underground water that fills pores in sand and gravel or openings in rock to the point of saturation. When ground water accumulates in significant quantities, it may be used as a source of drinking water.

**Heavy Metals** - A group of metals including lead, cadmium, and manganese. These can be highly toxic at relatively low concentrations.

**Monitoring Wells** - Special wells installed at selected locations on or near a hazardous waste site to sample ground water at selected depths and to evaluate the direction of ground water flow.



**Cadmium** - Found in some ores. Cadmium is toxic, and can be fatal if contaminated dust or fumes are inhaled.

**Dissolved Solid** - This is a generic term. It can be any of a number of chemicals or minerals found dissolved in water. The test to detect dissolved solids is a general test, is used to determine if water is polluted. If dissolved solids are found in water, more tests are conducted to identify which chemicals are present.

## CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

**National Priorities List (NPL)** - U.S. EPA's list of the top priority hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for federal cleanup money under Superfund.

**Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS)** - Two distinct but related studies. The remedial investigation examines the nature and the extent of contamination problems at the site. The feasibility study evaluates different methods to clean up or otherwise resolve the contamination found during the remedial investigation.

**Risk Assessment** - A study based on the results of the RI, to determine the extent to which chemical contaminants found at the site pose a risk to public health and the environment.

**Slag** - Waste by-products which result from the smelting of metallic ore or objects containing metal.

**Smelting** - A process of either melting or fusing metal bearing ores in order to recover or purify particular metals.

**Lead** - Found in some ores. It can be toxic by ingestion or by inhalation of contaminated dust or fumes. Lead accumulates in the body, and can build up to dangerous levels over long periods of time. It can cause brain, bone and nerve damage.

**Manganese** - Usually found in iron ore. Inhalation of dust or fumes over a period of time can cause damage to the central nervous system.

**Sulfates** - Sulfate itself is not dangerous, but combined with other chemicals it can be dangerous or toxic. The danger depends on which chemical it combines with.

## The Next Step

Now that the pollution study is complete, NL Industries is conducting a study of ways to clean up the site. Under U.S. EPA and IEPA supervision, NL Industries will screen and evaluate cleanup alternatives. The evaluation of each alternative will consider:

- Ability to protect human health and the environment;
- Compliance with laws and regulations;
- Cost effectiveness;
- Acceptance of the alternative by the state and the community;

- Effectiveness (short and long-term); and
- Ability to be implemented

When this study is complete, U.S. EPA will select a preferred cleanup alternative for the site. U.S. EPA will distribute information on the study and the proposed cleanup alternatives to the community. Members of the community will have an opportunity to review and comment on all the alternatives evaluated. U.S. EPA will take all public comments into consideration before it makes a final decision on the site cleanup.

# For More Information

## Government Contacts

**MaryAnn Croce**  
Community Relations  
Coordinator  
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Remedial Project  
Manager  
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**U.S. EPA, Region 5**  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**TOLL-FREE:**  
**1-800-621-8431**  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Central Time

**Ken Miller**  
Project Manager  
Illinois Environmental  
Protection Agency  
(217) 782-6760



## MAILING LIST

If you have not received information in the mail about the NL/Taracorp Superfund site and wish to be placed on the mailing list, please complete this form, detach, and mail to:

**MaryAnn Croce (SPA-14)**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Office of Public Affairs  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



**U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region 5**  
**Office of Public Affairs (SPA-14)**  
**230 South Dearborn Street**  
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